

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

Designed to improve the Farmer, the Gardener, and the Planter.

AGRICULTURE IS THE MOST HEALTHFUL, THE MOST USEFUL, AND THE MOST NOBLE EMPLOYMENT OF MAN.—WASHINGTON.

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WORK FOR THE MONTH.

"The sultry summer past, September comes,
Soft twilight of the slow declining year,
All mildness, soothing loneliness and peace,
The fading season, ere the falling come,
More sober than the buxom blooming May,
And therefore less the favorite of the world,
But dearest month of all to pensive minds."

[C. WILCOX.]

September ushers in a new season of the year, and calls up a new class of emotions in the heart of the husbandman. The heat of the summer is over, and its long and exhausting labor is ended. The May harvest is gathered, and the great staple crops of the farm, corn and potatoes, are rapidly hastening to maturity. There is no hurry in gathering these; they have not to be made, like hay, while the sun shines. The farmer can now take a little longer nooning, and the evenings are perceptibly longer for reading up the Agricultural journals that have been overlooked amid the pressing duties of summer. He has time now to look at the aspects of Nature and to enjoy them.

New sounds begin to greet his ear as he misses from the wood, the meadow and the orchard, his summer favorites. The lark, the bob-o-link, the swallow, like summer friends, are off before the touch of frost upon the foliage, seeking in sunnier climes the pleasures that no more greet them under our autumn skies. We miss from the orchard the full gushing song of the robin. His notes are broken as he gives over domestic cares and becomes an epicure. He gorges himself now instead of his birdlings in the nest, and lays on fat in the plenty of harvest against the long bitter fast of winter. His epicurean habits are unfavorable to song. New classes of insects begin to make their appearance as the old die off. A dead grasshopper is here and there seen glued to some sapless grass-stalk or weed, as if he were facing the fading summer and mourning over his ephemeral joys. The key note of the insect hum is changed. It is lower and softer, preparing the mind of man for the advent of those "melancholy days, the saddest of the year."

But the eye as well as the ear takes note of the change that is now coming over the season. The woods have lost the freshness

of their verdure, and in many a spot the russet and yellow begin to contrast with the green. The somber colors gain in fullness and breadth until the close of the month, when the frost begins to show its handiwork in field and forest. The orchard now drops luscious fruits from its laden boughs. Alas! for the man who has none, but looks with curious eyes to the ripening apples, peaches and pears of his neighbor, and is obliged to read unedifying lectures to his sons on the sin of fruit-stealing by moonlight. An order to the nurseryman next month for a good supply of trees would have more influence than all his exhortations. The corn field hastens to maturity. The leaves have almost done their work, and are drying up. The kernels are hardening and glazing, and the earlier kinds are pushing the golden ears through the shrivelling husks. Happy is the man now who manured heavily and followed our suggestions in regard to thorough tillage. He has thick heavy ears upon every hill, and no heavy crop of weeds are going to seed to impede the cultivation of another year. He has a clean soil. He can afford to make

A FALL VISIT

to some of his kin, if he does not stay too long. As a rule farmers do not take time enough for social purposes. It pays every man, after the pressing summer work is over, to unbend the muscles, and to keep alive the associations and friendships of earlier years by the interchange of visits. The facilities for travel are now so great that these visits can be made with little expense and small loss of time. Formerly when one's kindred went to the far West, they were as good as buried. They hardly expected to return again; and if we went from the East thither, it took a month or two, and cost a large sum. Now two or three days will set us down in almost any place east of the Mississippi, and thousands can visit friends in that valley to whom it would have been impracticable a dozen years ago. These visits pay well for the information they give an intelligent man of the different methods of husbandry. He cannot fail, if he improves his opportunities, to pick up many items of farm practice that will be exceedingly profitable to him at home. This should always be kept as a distinct object before the mind in these visits, and the information thus gathered will not only show itself at home, but in the Farmer's Club, and in the intercourse of neighbors at the fireside.

THE FALL EXHIBITIONS

will of course come in for a share of attention this month. The County Exhibitions should not only be visited, but should have the liberal contributions of every farmer. A first question should be, with the opening of the month, What can I exhibit? Look over the premium list again, and see what prizes you can hope to win. Send up the best animals and the best products of the field and garden to the County show. Let there be an animated competition for the premiums. It will cost two or three days of time, and a little money, but both will be well spent. Take your wife and children to the exhibition, and invite all your first and second cousins to go, and let the "good time coming" be realized when the county gets together, to show up the results of their industry for the year. Take full notes of the exhibition, and learn all you can of the many new things that will be seen.

SEED CORN

should be selected this month. Many a farmer has lost ten, fifteen, twenty bushels of corn for lack of this precaution. We have had great complaint of the failure of corn to come up with the first planting. This, in most instances, was owing to taking corn from the bin to plant; corn imperfectly ripened, or that was put up last fall before the cob was sufficiently dry. Those who selected their corn, and hung it up by the husk to cure, had sound seed that came up well. Select those ears that grow two or three upon a stalk. They may be indicated by putting down a stake by the hills, or by tying a string or strip of husk around the ear. As soon as the husk cleaves from the ear, break them off, tie them in bunches, and hang them in a dry place, where they will cure perfectly, and be ready for use next spring. This selection of seed is a matter of great importance. It not only secures a perfect seed, but one more prolific. The yield will be larger, and the farmer who follows this course will find his crops constantly improving.

SOWING WHEAT.

This should be done as early in September as possible. The young plants have time to become well established before winter, and are much less likely to be killed by the freezing and thawing. Deep, thorough tillage is also of great importance in wheat culture. We have found guano a very economical manure for this crop. (See a longer article on this subject.)

RYE FOR SOILING.

This comes earlier in the spring than al

most any other plant, and for those who keep up their horses and cattle through the summer, it will be found a good crop. It will be ready for the scythe in the spring, by the time the root-bin is empty. Whether rye is sown for this purpose, or for the grain, it should be put in early.

FATTENING ANIMALS.

Do not put off this business till November. An animal will lay on fat and flesh much faster now than in cold weather. They should be kept full fed, and should have a variety of food. Pigs should have all the green corn they can eat. We have found the large sweet corn, cut up by the roots, a very profitable diet for them. They will eat leaf, stalk and ear, as clean as a cow.

HARVESTING CORN.

If you are short of fodder, and wish to make the most of your corn, cut the stalks when the spindle and a little of the stem beneath it is dry. If cured, and bound in small bundles, it makes a fodder equal to the best hay. The grain is undoubtedly diminished by this process, but what is lost in grain is made up in the increased value of the stalks. If grain is more of an object with you, cut up by the roots as soon as there is danger of a killing frost. This will give the maximum quantity of grain.

POTATOES

should be dug as soon as the vines are dead. If struck with the rot, the sooner they are out of the ground the better. We begin to hear some complaint of the rot, though potatoes in the market thus far have been of good size and quality. Do not be in haste to sell until the extent of the disease is ascertained. In storing them, keep them from the light.

TURNIPS.

Those which are cultivated in drills should have thorough tillage through this month. Stir the soil often, and keep it free from weeds. This month and the next make the turnip crop. It is not yet too late to sow the Red Strap Leaf variety. They will grow until they freeze into the soil. Sow them in any vacant spots in the garden, or where early potatoes have been taken from the field. Should the fall be wet, you will have a large return for your labor. If they fail to make bulbs large enough for use, they will make a good green crop to plow in.

CARROTS

also should have constant cultivation until the tops shade the soil and prevent the growth of weeds. Success in root culture depends very much upon subduing weeds. Not one should be left to go to seed. The eradication of weeds in old ground that has long been subject to slovenly husbandry is the most expensive part of growing roots. It costs so much to get a field into right shape for this crop, that we have thought it was better economy to keep it in roots for a succession of years, rather than to seed it down. We believe carrots can be grown, with manure enough, to secure a thousand bushels to the acre, more economically than with any less quantity of manure, and a smaller yield.

SAVE YOUR WIND-FALLS.

Some farmers leave these to rot upon the ground under the apple trees. But there is the same reason for removing them, that there is for clearing the garden and fields of weeds. Most of these apples are full of worms or the eggs of insects. It is from this cause that they have fallen prematurely. If suffered to lie upon the ground, the seed of a wonderful worm harvest will mature, and you will have work for another season. If you would have fair fruit, you must take care of these worm nurseries and crush them in the bud. If the pigs run in the orchard, they will probably keep the ground clear, and get some part of their living. If you have not this convenience, let them be picked up and given to cows and swine.

STRAWBERRY BEDS

can be prepared and planted early this month. (See the Agriculturist for August, and another page in this number.)

THE MUCK BEDS

are the foundation for good beds of everything else in the garden. If you have not an abundant supply of this article, do not fail to secure it this month. The mines can be worked to much better advantage now than later in the season. (See another page.—[Ed.]

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS.

SEPTEMBER, 1856.

[We give from month to month, besides our leading article, "Work for the Month," a Calendar of some of the more important operations in the field, garden, &c. These are adapted to the latitudes of 41° to 45°. A little allowance must be made for each degree of latitude—later north, earlier south. An early season, or a late one advances or retards operations, so that we shall need to revise and adapt these tables to each year.

The letters f. m. l. refer to first, middle, and last of the month.

Doubling the letters thus: ff., mm., or ll., gives emphasis to the particular period indicated.]

FARM.

Barn-yards—See that the autumn rains do not leach your manure heaps, and carry the best portions into the highway, or upon a neighbor's farm. Remember that a drain from the barn-yard, unless the wash is saved by a pit and muck, is a hole in the pocket.

Beans—Pull as soon as ripe, and spread or stack to dry.

Buckwheat—Cut as soon as dry, and thresh as fast as it is carted in.

Cattle for Fattening—Give extra pasturage, with a little of the corn sown for soiling, and a few pumpkins occasionally; if any old corn is left over, feed them on it now, as they will gain much faster than after cold weather sets in.

Corn—Cut and shock early, or as soon as the husks are well dried; the corn will be sweeter and heavier, and the fodder much better than if cut when perfectly ripe, after exposure to all the autumn storms. Select sound, well filled ears for seed, from stalks producing two or more ears; trace and hang them up in the crib or granary, if you wish to have no failures in next spring's planting; remembering the many complaints of last spring, and the labor of replanting. (See page 245 of August Agriculturist.)

Cows—Feed a little of the soiling corn to milch cows at night, especially where pasturage begins to fail. Pumpkins may also be fed to them with profit.

Draining wet soils—Continue until they are made the most valuable portions of the farm.

Fences—See that they are in good order, as cattle are looking for the best pasturage at this season.

Hogs should not be allowed to spend this month in idleness; when shut from the range of the fruit orchard, they should be employed in manufacturing manures; to aid in which, cart to their yards and pens potato tops, turf, loam, muck, leaves, weeds, and the scrapings from woods, mixing in a little corn for them to root after. Put swine for fattening in a yard by themselves, and give extra food.

Manures—Attend to ff., mm., ll. Collect sea-weed, muck, fish, head lands, &c., for composting, and spreading in the cow and hog yard. (See last month's directions.)

Muck Swamps are farmers' mines. Continue to "dig" in them before the "rainy season sets in," that you may have a good stock for winter and spring use. It is better to keep one year's stock on hand, as exposure, and especially freezing, benefits it.

Potatoes—Dig for market as wanted; many prefer allowing those for winter use to remain till late in the season, believing that they keep better in the ground than elsewhere, and that if they decay, it saves the trouble of taking them in and removing them again.

Root Crops—Use cultivator among, to loosen the soil. Keep free from weeds.

Rye—Sow f. to m.; see article on Wheat.

Seeds—Select the best, and keep them distinct for planting.

Soiling Crops—Cut and feed out as wanted, and harvest that intended for winter use early, curing it well before putting away.

Timber—Continue to cut ff. (See last month.)

Timothy—Sow ff., if not done already.

Weeds—Gather and carry to the hog-pens both for food and manure; weeds in their green state are eagerly sought by swine.

Wheat—Prepare to sow early. (See article elsewhere.)

ORCHARD AND NURSERY.

Apples—Gather autumn varieties, and lay away in the fruit-room.

Budding may still be done ff. Loosen the bandages of early buddings, and insert fresh buds where failures have occurred.

Evergreens may be moved during this month, though we prefer to transplant them in the spring.

Fences—Keep in good order—cattle do much damage at this stage of crops, both in the orchard and nursery.

Fruit—Gather with care as it ripens; some varieties, particularly pears, are improved by picking and carrying to the house before they are fully ripe.

Grounds for nursery and orchard; prepare by manuring, plowing and subsoiling, or trenching, f. to m.

Hoe nursery rows and seed beds; do not

allow the weeds to overrun them as the season draws to a close.

Insects—Continue to entrap.

Peach Trees—Bud close to the ground, ff. to m.

Pears—Gather autumn varieties carefully by hand before they become soft, and spread them on shelves in the fruit room or chamber to ripen; if the finer kinds, which become soft like the Bartlett, are to be taken at a distance to market, it is better to send them while a little hard, and have them ripen in the dealer's care, otherwise they are injured by transportation.

Plow and cultivate in nursery rows, taking care not to injure or bark the trees. Also begin to plow ground for next year's planting.

Pruning—Complete for this season, ff. paring the surface smooth and close to the body of the tree or limb.

Seed-beds—Keep free from weeds, stirring the ground often.

Stones or pits of fruit, save and plant at once, or mix with earth.

KITCHEN AND FRUIT GARDEN.

Artichokes—Break down ff.

Borage—Sow ff.

Cabbage and Cauliflower—Sow m. to l. for cold frames; hoe former plantings.

Cardoons—Earth up.

Celery—Earth up when perfectly dry, but do not cover the heart of the plant, nor bruise the stalks, as either will cause them to rot.

Cold Frames, shutters, &c., have in readiness, glazing the sash frames if needed.

Corn Salad—Sow ff. and m.

Cucumbers for Pickling—Gather before frost, as they are soon injured by exposure.

Earthing up—Attend to, f. m. l.

Endive—Blanch early, f. to m.; transplant for winter ff.

Herbaceous Plants—Part roots ll., in cloudy or damp weather, and plant out to increase the stock.

Herbs—Gather and dry thoroughly, after which rub them through a sieve, and put in bottles or boxes, keeping in dry places.

Hoe the ground often, particularly among late vegetables, and in dry weather.

Hops—Continue to gather ff.; dry and pack for winter keeping.

Insects—Continue to entrap as per directions of last month, which see, and also on another page of this number.

Lettuce—Sow for spring planting f. to m.

Mangoes—Gather before frost.

Manure grounds intended for early gardening next spring. Plow deep, and sub-soil or trench, so as to cover the manure thoroughly.

Mint—Plant f. to m.

Mushroom Beds—Make and collect spawn ff. to m.

Nasturtiums—Gather as ready for pickles.

Onions—Pull and dry ripe ones, sowing seed ff. to m., to stand over winter.

Parsley—Sow f. to m. for spring use.

Potatoes—Dig as wanted for use, but leave those for winter till next month.

Radishes for Fall and Winter use—Sow ff.; for spring, sow m. to ll.

Rhubarb—Sow f. to m.

Seeds—Gather as they ripen, selecting the best for next year's planting; label and date the time of putting them up, that you may know their age at any future season.

Stakes used for Raspberries—Gather up and lay away under cover for next year's use.

Spinach—Sow ff. for fall and winter use, and m. to l. for spring, covering during the winter.

Stone Fruits—Do not allow to get over ripe, as their fine aromatic flavor is thus lost.

Strawberries—Make beds and plant ff., if not done last month. Clean out old beds. (See article elsewhere, and especially in last number.)

Tomatoes—Keep the fruit from the ground by means of brush or tying up.

Turnips—A few may be sown ff., south of this latitude; hoe and thin advancing crops, using the hand or horse cultivator when they are accessible.

Weeds—Pull large ones, and carry to the hog-pen; watch carefully that none go to seed.

FLOWER GARDEN AND LAWN.

Annuals—Sow ff. all half hardy plants not completed last month.

Bulbous Roots—Plant f. m. to l.; sow seed ff. (See article elsewhere.)

Canterbury Bell—Sow f. to m.

Carnations—Take off layers, cutting at the joint nearest the root.

Clarkia—Sow ff. in pots, and place them in a cold frame for early spring planting.

Coreopsis, Centaurea, and Collinsia—Sow f. to m., in well prepared borders.

Cuttings of Woody shrubs—Make m. to l.

Dahlias and tall Herbaceous Plants—Stake securely to prevent their being blown down by the high winds of this month.

Evergreens may be planted during this month, when desirable, though as a general thing we prefer spring transplanting.

Flower Stalks—Remove as fast as they have finished blooming.

Grass—Mow and roll as required, sowing seed on bare spots.

Gravel Walks—Weed and rake off, f. m. l.

Hedges—Clip ff. to m.

Hoe often to keep down weeds and promote the growth of late plants.

Hyacinths and Crown Imperials—Plant out m. to ll.

Lilies—Transplant ff. to m., parting off-sets.

Mignonette—Sow in pots f. to m., and shelter in frames.

Pansies—Sow seed and propagate by layers.

Pinks—Plant out pipings for spring blooming, ff. to m., on warm borders or beds.

Polyanthus and Ranunculus—Plant ff. to m.

Primula—Sow ff., and they will vegetate next spring; but if sown at that time, they will probably remain in the ground for a year.

Roses may still be budded ff.

Scabious—Sow ff.

Seeds—Collect with care and mark plain. Tender Plants, which were placed in bor-

ders and flower beds, take up m. to l.; prune and repot.

Tulips and other Tuberous Plants—Plant out m. to l.

Verbenas—Pot runners and layers for winter blooming.

Water less frequent, unless the season should be dry; heavy dews and fogs, in addition to the rains, will nearly supply the requisite moisture.

Weeds—Pull and carry to the hog-pen before they seed the ground.

GREEN AND HOT HOUSE.

Air freely in mild weather, especially the green-house.

Azalias—Remove to the house f. to m., or before heavy rains set in.

Bulbs—Plant f. to m.

Camelias—Complete repotting ff.; water and syringe freely, that there be no check while the blossom buds are forming; have them all in the house by the 20th.

Chrysanthemums—Pot a few, treating them as stocks, and they will bloom till December.

Composts—Prepare f. to m.

Crocus—Pot for winter blooming m.

Cuttings—Strike and plant out ff. to m.

Fires—Keep up a moderate heat to expel dampness and assist in ripening late crops of grapes, &c.

Geraniums—Remove those planted in borders, and pot f. to m.; water those potted last month sparingly.

Grapes—Air freely both those which are maturing and those which have ripened their crop; water the border occasionally, unless there be sufficient rain.

Houses—Complete glazing, cleaning, white-washing and painting ff.; examine ropes, pulleys and weights.

Housing Plants—Attend to f. to m.; they should nearly all be in by the 20th, and the tender ones much earlier. Take in the tallest first, such as Oleanders, Oranges, Lemons, Myrtles and Limes, keeping the latter in a warm part of the house.

Hyacinths, Gladiolas, Narcissus, Tulips and Polyanthus for forcing, pot ff. to m.

Insects—Destroy by fumigations, syringing and searching after.

Leaves—Wash and remove those decayed.

Myrtles and Oleanders in borders—Remove to pots f. to m., thinning out shoots, if too crowded; turn often, to give them regular heads.

Oranges and Lemons—Remove to the house ff. to m., thinning the fruit, and pruning as necessary.

Pelargoniums may remain out in sheltered situations till next month; Pot cuttings f. to m.

Pines—Take off and pot strong suckers ff.; weaker ones may be removed m. to l., and put in a pit for wintering.

Potting should be assiduously attended to this month; bedding plants and their layers should be potted and carried in before they are injured by frosts.

Prune and dress plants as they are taken in; also grape vines and peaches which have matured their crops early.

Roses—Make cuttings ff.; pot for forcing f. to m.

Seedlings and other Plants well rooted—Transplant f. to m.

Sow Mignonette, Clarkia, and a few others ff., to bloom during the winter.

Stocks and Wall Flowers—Lift and remove to the house ff., if wanted to bloom during the winter; pot them in light loamy soil, and keep shaded for a season, sprinkling them with water often.

Succulents—Remove to the houses ff., and place those requiring the greatest heat under glasses.

Syringe less frequently, and only during dry weather, unless it be with whale oil soap to destroy insects.

Tender Plants—Watch closely, and remove to the houses early, before they are checked by the cool weather.

Tuberous Plants—Keep dry.

Verbenas—Make cuttings and layers for winter blooming; pot and take in f. to m.

Water less frequently this month, in the morning rather than evening. Large plants in tubs will not require water more than once or twice a week, but they should then have enough to wet them thoroughly.

OUR EXPERIMENTS WITH NEW VARIETIES OF PEAS.

Four new varieties of these (from Germany), received through the Patent Office, were planted May 12. They were drilled in parallel rows, side by side, on a light sandy loam, with a small quantity of fine bone-dust put into the drills, and watered occasionally with sink slops.

1. *Daniel O'Rourke*.—Peas rather under the medium size; vines dwarfish, or 20 to 25 inches high at maturity. These were ready for the table June 26, or in forty-five days from planting. Eating quality fair, but nothing extra. They were harvested and re-sown on the same ground July 15, and now (August 15) are in bloom again. With early planting two crops can easily be raised on the same ground. A medium bearer: chief merit: great rapidity of growth, and very early maturity.

2. *Dwarf Hamburg*.—This is true to the name dwarf, as at maturity the vines stood upright, and were not above six inches high. The vines were well loaded with pods, but owing to their smallness, this variety cannot be considered very productive. These were full medium size, and ready for table June 29, or in forty-eight days from planting. Eating quality fair: early maturity their chief recommendation. Harvested and replanted on same ground July 15, and now in second bloom.

3. *Dwarf Mammoth*.—This is a slower grower than the above, as it was not ready for the table until July 25, or in seventy-four days from planting. But with this exception, it is the finest garden pea we have ever raised or seen. It is very large, literally a mammoth pea, with a rich sweet flavor. The vines average about two feet in height, and bear pretty well.

4. *Capucine*.—A tall and slow growing

pea, of large size and purple color, when cooked green or ripe. Ready for table July 31, eighty days from planting. They cook mealy when green, but the dark purple color is against them, and the flavor is not equal to the Marrowfat, we think.

For family use we shall next season plant the *Daniel O'Rourke* in succession, and a few *Dwarf Hamburg* for use up to the time of ripening of the *Dwarf Mammoth*, and make the *Mammoth* our chief reliance. Its superior size and flavor, little bushing required, and successive ripening of pods on different parts of the same vines, are all decidedly in its favor. We trust somebody will import a large quantity from Germany, that the seed may be generally distributed.

—[Ed.]

IMPROVING SANDY SOILS.

AN ILLUSTRATION SHOWING THE PROFITABLENESS OF APPLYING SKILL AND CAPITAL TO THE RENOVATION OF POOR LAND.

A few days since we received a call from a Pennsylvania farmer who occupies a very sandy soil in one of the pine regions of that State. He referred to the great advantages he had derived from hints thrown out from time to time in the *Agriculturist*, and as an illustration recalled an article we wrote several years ago, in reference to the treatment of sandy soil with clay. He, and afterwards several of his neighbors, had followed our suggestions, and sundry barren sandy fields are already as fruitful as a garden. He described particularly one field of five acres, which, prior to 1849, would scarcely yield twenty bushels of corn to the acre, no matter how well manured, but which in 1855 produced 388 bushels of nice, sound shelled corn, that is, over 77½ bushels to the acre, without any manure. The treatment was as follows:

In the Fall of 1849 men were set to work upon a bed of clay, situated in a deep valley upon one side of the farm. The ground was laid out into alternate strips, or beds of six and thirteen feet wide. The narrow strips were then dug out to the depth of four feet, the clay removed being thrown out upon either side, and piled upon the edges of the wide strips. An outlet at the lower end of the several ditches thus made, drew off any water that settled into them. In the middle of the wider strip a smooth space remained between the masses of clay piled upon either side, for the passage of a double team with a cart or sled.

When the ground was covered with snow in winter, the clay was taken upon ox-sleds and drawn about one-third of a mile to the sandy field above referred to. The surface of the heaped clay was frozen from six to twelve inches in depth, but being pretty thoroughly drained of water, it was easily broken into lumps with the aid of axes and crow-bars, and tumbled upon the low-built sleds. One hundred loads were applied to the acre during the first winter. In the spring the masses of clay crumbled down quite finely, and they were then spread more uniformly over the surface than could

be done in the winter. A roller, followed by a harrow, was then passed over the field to break up and distribute the lumps of clay evenly over the surface. As soon as dry enough, the field was plowed five to six inches in depth, and a very heavy, long-tooth harrow passed over it. It was again plowed deeply, say eight to ten inches, harrowed deeply and thoroughly, and the corn planted. The yield that year (1850) was 287½ bushels, or 57½ bushels per acre. An adjoining field, having a similar soil and location, and planted at the same time, averaged twenty-one bushels per acre. Another similar field, at a little distance, which had received twenty loads per acre of yard manure, yielded 37 bushels to the acre. In the Fall of 1850, the clayed field was sown to wheat, and produced 97½ bushels, or 19½ bushels per acre. In the winter of 1851-2, it was again treated to fifty loads per acre of clay, worked in as before, and corn planted in 1852. The crop was estimated at 65 bushels per acre, but not accurately measured. In autumn, wheat was again sowed, and clover seed added in the spring, which furnished considerable feed in the fall of 1853. It was mowed in 1854, and pastured in autumn.

In the spring of 1855, the field was plowed and planted to corn, and yielded as above—77½ bushels of shell corn per acre. A heavy crop of wheat has just been removed.

The cost of claying the land is estimated at \$20 per acre, where one hundred loads were drawn one-third of a mile; the actual cost was less than this, as the work was chiefly performed at a time when little else could be done by the teams, or by the workmen, who were employed by the year.

It will readily be seen by an arithmetical calculation, that one hundred loads to the acre gives about one load to each plot of twenty feet square. Our informant estimates the loads of clay to have averaged 1½ to 2 tons each. He says that where he added sixteen loads to the acre, or one to every square rod, the soil, which was before almost entirely sand, is changed to a comparatively rich loam, to the depth of nine to twelve inches—the last three plowings having been made to that depth. His land is now permanently improved, and will, without doubt, pay back annually a very large interest upon the capital invested in claying it. To show how this is, we may make the following estimate, say for the last year's crop, allowing that, owing to a favorable season, the field in its original condition might have yielded 30 bushels of corn to the acre, or 150 bushels in all.

BEFORE CLAYING.

Cost of plowing, &c., 5 acres, say.....	\$10 00
Cost of seed and planting.....	7 00
Cost of hoeing and cultivating.....	12 50
Cost of harvesting & husking 150 bu.	12 00
Interest on land, at \$10 per acre.....	3 50
Total cost.....	\$45 00
150 bushels of corn at 40c.....	60 00
Net profit on 5 acres.....	\$15 00
Net profit per acre.....	3 00

AFTER CLAYING.

Cost of plowing, &c., as above.....	\$10 00
Cost of seed and planting.....	7 00
Cost of hoeing, &c.....	12 50
Cost of harvesting & husking 388 bus.	25 00
Interest on land, at \$40 per acre.....	14 00

Total cost.....	\$68 50
388 bushels, at 40c.....	155 20

Net profit on 5 acres.....	\$86 70
Net profit per acre.....	17 34

In the above calculation, we have not taken into account the increased value of the corn stalks for fodder.

The yield of 77½ bushels per acre was, however, a large one, due in part to an unusually good season. To bring it within sure limits, let us suppose the average yield to be only fifty bushels per acre on the improved land. Allow still that the unimproved land would yield 30 bushels per acre, and place the profit as before, at \$3 per acre. The account, after the improvement, will stand:

Cost of preparing land.....	\$10 00
Cost of seed and planting.....	7 00
Cost of cultivation.....	12 50
Cost of harvesting 250 bushels.....	20 00

Total.....	\$49 50
250 bushels, at 40c.....	100 00
Profit on five acres.....	50 50
Profit per acre.....	10 10
Deduct profit before improvement...	3 00
Net profit per acre for improvement...	7 10

As all the expenses of plowing, seed and cultivation, are the same in both cases, and we have allowed \$8 for the expense of harvesting and husking the extra yield, this \$7 10 per acre may be put down as so much profit on \$30 expended in improving an acre. This is equal to over 23 per cent. The increased value of the fodder would raise the profit to over 25 per cent.

In the above calculations, we have taken the lowest figures for the benefits arising from the improvement of the land. In the case given in illustration, the profits were far greater, and so they will be in nine cases of every ten. A crop of corn, grass or wheat, may be secured from such land annually, and the average profit will be quite as large as we have estimated for corn. The only chance for lower figures is where, from the difficulty of procuring clay, \$30 will not suffice to add 150 heavy loads of clay to the acre. But suppose the expense be \$50 per acre, and the annual increase be but 20 bushels, at 40 cents per bushel, the profit would still be equal to \$8 on \$50, or 16 per cent.

Now, what bank or railroad stock pays 25 per cent., or even 15 per cent. per annum? Suppose even that we could readily find such stocks; the banks or railroads may fail, or meet with severe losses, such as almost all of them have experienced. A sandy field improved by giving it a thorough admixture of clay, is improved for a dozen generations, as nothing but a long-continued flood of running water can remove the clay and reduce the soil to its former sandy, barren condition. The same amount of prepa-

ration, seed and cultivation, will ever after produce a much larger amount of crop. Further, whatever manures or fertilizers are afterwards added, will be much more effective on the improved than on the original soil.

The considerations we have presented, appeal to the capitalist as well as the farmer in moderate circumstances. Another view might be taken of this subject, viz., the economy of cultivating small farms *well*, instead of adding acre to acre, which is all the rage now-a-days among the possessors of both small and large farms, but having already made this article longer than we designed, we leave the subject now, intending to often recur to it again.—[Ed.]

SUGGESTIONS ON SOWING WHEAT.

Some of our correspondents tell rather pitiful stories respecting the Wheat crop in their several localities, and they speak strongly of its culture being wholly abandoned. But such reports are confined to a very few sections, and these of limited extent. So far as we can learn, the past crop has been comparatively a good one, and farmers are preparing the ground for sowing quite as largely as in past years. This we believe to be good policy. Wheat is still a safe crop when compared with other staple farm productions. It is so well adapted to universal consumption that it will always find a ready market. No other product of the farm is better adapted for transportation to any part of the world where it may be needed. Few places are so remote from market that Wheat can not generally be converted into cash at all seasons of the year; and no other crop has uniformly maintained so high comparative prices as this. The partial decline during the present year has led many to fear a return to the low prices of former years, but we think this can not be reasonably looked for. The great increase of gold in our country has changed the old ratios of value, and all kinds of farm produce have felt the influence much more than manufactured goods. Wheat is now but little higher, compared with other crops, than it was five or ten years ago, and we see no reason for its sinking any lower in the comparative scale. Temporary causes may produce a general depression of prices in farm products as well as in everything else, but every consideration leads us to believe that farmers may calculate upon receiving remunerative if not decidedly profitable returns for all the Wheat they can raise hereafter. We have annually given a chapter of suggestions at this season, in reference to the time, mode of sowing, &c., of Wheat, and we can not do better at this time than to repeat in substance what we stated last year.

So far as our observation has extended, limestone lands, or clay lands limed, have generally been found to be the best soils for Wheat. The best Wheat soils in the "Genesee Country," are good loams which are filled with enneritic limestones, that is, limestones filled with organic or animal re-

mains. Experience, however, is a better test of the adaptability of the soil of any particular locality to Wheat growing than any arbitrary rules that can be laid down. There are comparatively few farms which do not contain more or less Wheat land. There are on almost all farms, many acres which may be sown to Wheat with the prospect of only half a crop, to better advantage than to let them lie in stubble or poor pasture. The opinion that all grass land must be plowed previous to harvest, and lie sometimes as Summer-fallow, is erroneous. A meadow or pasture may be turned over in September, and Wheat sown directly upon the inverted sod. Such land should be well harrowed after plowing, and if very poor, a light coating of rotted manure or guano be worked into the surface to supply the necessities of the plant until the decay of the underlying sods. Stubble lands, whether of Oats, Wheat or Barley, may also be sown probably, if a coating of manure or guano be applied; and it is even better to obtain a half or two-thirds crop, than to let such ground lie idle for a whole year. Those who understand well the philosophy of manuring, find no difficulty in remunerative crops of Wheat every year from the same field, though a rotation of crops is always advisable, where it can be done without contracting the amount of the more important crop.

SELECTION OF SEED.

This should be attended to before as well as after threshing. The Wheat ripening earliest should invariably be saved for seed. The manner of threshing is important. When Wheat is crowded through a machine with close-setting, sharp teeth, a great number of the kernels are broken, or crushed so as to destroy the germ, though the fracture may not be perceptible to the eye, at least without careful inspection. We have counted ten to twenty-five in a hundred kernels thus spoiled for seed. We have latterly recommended to place the whole sheaves upon the barn-floor, and beat off with the flail the largest and best kernels for seed; and then lay aside the sheaves to be run through a machine afterwards. Two men will readily beat off thirty to sixty bushels of seed in a day, if the threshing-floor is adjacent to the Wheat-mow, since a very little beating will take out half or more of the grain.

Select the largest, plumpest kernels for seed.

—To pass over the generally established principle, that "like produces like," there is an important consideration that we have not seen referred to by writers on the selection of various kinds of seed. Every seed contains not only the germ of the future plant, but also a supply of nourishment for the first wants of the young shoot. The germ of the Wheat seed is very small, and the great bulk of the kernel is composed of what must nourish the germ until it has sent forth roots into the soil and leaves into the air. If now the kernel be small or shriveled, the young shoot will lack for nourishment, will get a poor start, and for a long time have but a comparatively feeble growth; while, from the full, plump kernel, the shoot will

derive a full supply of pabulum, will send forth vigorous roots and leaves, and will have a much better chance for a rapid after-growth. Three hundred pounds per acre of guano, intimately mingled with the soil, has been found to exert a powerful effect upon the Wheat plants, and yet that amount of guano does not furnish to each cubic inch of soil as much nourishment as there is in a single plump kernel of Wheat. This reasoning must appear obvious to every one; and to this we may add the fact that, in our experience, as well as from extended observation, we have found the practice of selecting large seed to be highly profitable. Our method has been to run the Wheat designed for seed over a coarse screen, which sorted out only about one-fourth to one-half of the largest, plumpest kernels. This process separates all foul seeds, and is the very best plan for rooting out such parts and securing "clean land." We have pursued the course for a few years, and the result has been that the general character of the Wheat has been so much improved that after selecting one-third of the plumpest kernels for seed and home use, the remaining two-thirds has still commanded the highest market price.

Varieties of Seed.—Almost every section of the country has some particular variety of Wheat which has been found best adapted to the locality, and no general rule can be given. Let every farmer be sure and get the best, and not sow a poorer variety *because he happens to have it*. He can usually exchange with a neighbor, giving Wheat good for consumption or market, for that which is more valuable for seed. Better to expend a dollar more for good seed than sow poor, when \$10 to \$12 per acre is to be laid out in other expenses of cultivation. An additional yield of two or three bushels for the same labor in cultivating will well repay the difference between good and bad seed.

From nearly all accounts of the past and present year, the Red Mediterranean Wheat has been found the most reliable, and wherever this seed is accessible we advise to procure it for a part or the whole of the next crop.

SOW WHEAT EARLY.

Every year's experience and observation show more and more plainly the importance of sowing Wheat early. One half or more of the reports from the Wheat crop during two years past contain in substance the following: "Early sown Wheat is good, but late sown is Winter-killed," or "injured by the insect." Wheat should get *well-rooted* before frosts set in. The *long* roots will be far less liable to be thrown out by frost. Nature is a good teacher; as soon as the old crop is ripe the seeds fall to the ground and commence growing again. North of latitude 42° it would be better if every grain of seed Wheat were in the ground early in September. From 40° to 42°, Wheat sowing should be *finished* by the first week in October.

METHOD OF SOWING WHEAT.

Every person raising twenty or thirty acres of Wheat can well afford to purchase a seed-drill, unless he can join a neighbor in buying one. Some of the advantages of drilling in Wheat, instead of sowing broadcast, may be summed up as follows:

The seed is put into the ground at a uniform depth, the plants come up evenly, grow evenly, and ripen at the same time.

A much smaller quantity of seed is re-

quired, because no allowance need be made for portions left partially covered, or covered too deeply; nor for a large number of seeds falling together, as usually happens in broadcast sowing. Nearly half a bushel of seed per acre may be saved, which, with the present high price of Wheat, would pay the cost of a seed-sower the first year upon a large farm, or where several small farmers unite in purchasing one.

Where the plants grow at uniform distances the light and air enter more freely, and a more vigorous growth is secured. Direct experiments have shown that where the heads of Wheat stand well apart the kernels upon each head are plumper, and often more than double the number of those upon heads growing closely together.

With the plants at equal distances, the roots occupy the whole soil, and do not interfere with each other, and there is a greater certainty of using up all the fertilizer applied to the ground.

Next to drilling-in Wheat we recommend plowing it with shallow furrows. In this method the grain is covered more uniformly with the plow than it would be with a harrow; the plants come up in rows and admit light and air; and as they stand between the small ridges, the soil from these will crumble down with frost, and falling around the roots, will be partially equivalent to hoeing. Of course, the ground should not be touched with harrow, roller or brush after the Wheat is plowed in.

MANURES FOR WHEAT.

These must be varied to meet the condition of the soil. Where the ground is cold and wet, and consequently contains decayed vegetable matter, alkalies, such as newly slacked lime, or unleached ashes, are highly valuable. In soils not abounding already in sulphate of iron and sulphuric acid in some form, Plaster of Paris is an excellent fertilizer, as it—so to speak—catches ammonia from the air and from rain water, and thus supplies Wheat with one of its best stimulants. Barn-yard manures of all kinds are always good. We recommend less rotting or composting than is usually practiced; let the manure, even to long straw, be kept from fermenting, and get it *under* the surface soil, where it will without fail decay gradually and furnish just the nourishment needed. If this is done that will not be a waste of the greater part of the best elements which are usually lost in the rotting process. Clover plowed under when at its full growth, and while still green, is one of the very best fertilizers for Wheat. When clover or manure, or sod is once plowed under, whether before or after the harvest season, it should never be turned up again. Let the surface be thoroughly pulverized with a heavy, sharp harrow, or with a cultivator, but never use the plow the second time, at least not deeply enough to throw up to the surface the organic or vegetable substances buried at the first plowing.

Of all "foreign manures" yet tried upon Wheat, there has none been found so *generally* beneficial as genuine Peruvian Guano. Wheat seems to delight especially in ammonia, and Guano furnishes this in abundance at the cheapest rate. Much value has been claimed for super-phosphate of lime and other manufactured articles, but the benefit derived from these often lies *more* in the advertisement of the interested manufacturers, than in any observed valuable results. Comparatively good results have, indeed, been observed, but it is worthy of remark that these have always followed where Guano, or some good substitute for it, has been added to the super-phosphate. The safer, cheaper plan for the purchaser is, to go to the fountain head and get the pure, unadulterated Guano itself.

MECHANICAL TREATMENT OF SOIL FOR WHEAT.

First of all, after making it *dry*, let it be stirred deeply; we do not say plowed deeply in the common acceptance of that word, for it is not always advisable to turn up to the surface a great depth of the sub-soil. This may be poisonous, or otherwise unfit for direct contact with the young plant. But it should at least be stirred below with a sub-soil plow to let in the air and allow water to drain off. If this is done the roots will strike down to a greater depth; they will derive more nourishment, as well as sap with which to appropriate the food collected from the air by the leaves; the frost will be less likely to heave them out; and the roots thus allowed by the deep cultivation to penetrate deep downwards, will be below the temporary effect of the sun in long drouths or hot weather.

Where under-draining is not already done, Wheat soil should in all cases be plowed in narrow lands, and the dead furrows between be left deep and well cleaned out, so that no water shall stand in the soil during freezing weather. A single illustration will show the importance of this. Dry or partly dry solid substances like soil, are but comparatively little expanded and contracted by heat and cold, while water expands and contracts about one-eighth of its whole bulk by a change of nine degrees of temperature, (40° to 31°.) Eight measures of water will produce nine measures of ice, and a soil saturated with water will swell and contract in freezing and thawing just as much as the same bulk of water itself. Now a wet soil by these alternate expansions and contractions, breaks and tears the roots of Wheat, and if it is not Winter-killed outright, it will be so much injured as to have a sickly, late growth in the Spring—a result not found where the soil is free from water during Winter. All Winter crops are in a similar condition. Hence, we repeat, let the best provision possible be made to keep the ground free from water during freezing weather.—[Ed.]

HUMBUGS.

A TWO CENT SHAVE.

About the meanest imposition practiced upon the community, is that of certain vendors of quack medicines, who are continually sending over the county circulars, pamphlets, &c., directed through the Post Office, UNPAID, to every individual whose address they can get from business directories, reports of meetings, &c., &c. The more prominent a man becomes the more is he likely to be annoyed; but the evil is extending to every class of society. Not long since we received a letter stating that, for a consideration named, "the writer would mail for us a circular to the address of each of 41,000 farmers," adding "that it was unnecessary to prepay postage," and further, "that he had already sent out over four millions of circulars for medicines, &c.," that is, all of these farmers had been taxed two dollars, or two cents each, on 100 circulars, of which probably ninety-nine were advertisements of the sheerest humbugs. What is this but a downright robbery of \$80,000?

Scarcely a week passes that we are not offered a large sum to allow the maker of some quack medicine to send a "circular" to each of our subscribers. We invariably refuse all such offers, however tempting, and if any of our readers receive any such

documents by mail they may rest assured that no facilities for obtaining their address are furnished at the office of the American Agriculturist. If the sellers of any article, however valuable or otherwise, wish to send advertising circulars abroad, let them, at the least, have the decency to prepay all postage. We have been so frequently imposed upon ourselves by such unpaid documents that we have resolved to show them up by name. We begin by informing "W—G—, M. D., of New-York," that we have no earthly use for his 19-page pamphlet, this day received, enclosed in a sealed envelope and *unpaid*. We are not, to our knowledge, afflicted with "Pulmonary Consumption," nor likely to be. If we are ever affected in that way we shall probably try to get cured or killed in the regular old-fashioned method, though we cannot say but that our nervous fears may in such a case lead us to send \$3 for one box, or \$8 for three boxes of the most ingeniously puffed secret medicine we can find in market.

THE "POSTAGE-STAMP" SHAPE.

Scarcely a newspaper can now be taken up that does not contain the advertisement of some "Rev." or "M. D." who has recovered his health by the discovery of a wonderful remedy for consumption or nervousness or other ailment. Filled with gratitude for the good they have secured they are benevolently affected towards all other sufferers, and hence they pay large sums to inform the people that for one, two, three or four "postage stamps" they will send the recipe by return of mail.

We had not supposed it necessary to caution the community against such imposters, but it appears that the business pays well enough to keep it up, and moreover it is now greatly on the increase, and to our surprise during the last month intelligent men in different parts of the country have actually sent us special remittances of stamps asking us to call upon Dr. So-and-so and Rev. So-and-so, and procure for them the elixir of life. If intelligent persons are thus imposed upon, how is it with the millions of ignorant and unwary? Of course we have made no effort to find the advertisers. It is exceedingly doubtful whether they have any "local habitation," or are to be found in any other way than through their Post-Office box.

Has not the question occurred to every one, If these *benevolent* individuals are so anxious to do a public good, why do they not publish to the world at once their important discoveries, which could be done without cost, instead of paying hundreds, yes, thousands of dollars for advertising, and making tens of thousands of dollars expense to those "sending stamps" and prepaying postage?

A correspondent informs us that: "A nervous neighbor enclosed a stamp to one of these 'superannuated clergymen,' and received an unpaid circular (costing the getter-up one mill,) setting forth the virtues of a costly preparation which would be forwarded to him on the receipt of \$1; that impressed with the apparent honesty of the 'clergyman,' he sent forward the dollar, and received in return a little unpaid package containing 12 homœopathic pills of arseniate

of potassa, costing perhaps one cent, with directions to take three a day, and if these did not cure perfectly another batch would be forwarded at the same rate; and that while one package seldom failed, two, three, or at most five could not fail to work a perfect cure if the patient had rightly described his condition."

Probably very few of those who "enclose stamps" ever hear from them again.

But enough for this time; we have more cases on hand for future disposal.—[Ed.]

THE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.

During a few weeks past we have received some sixty to seventy printed documents, letters, &c., giving announcements, details of arrangements, &c., for the forthcoming exhibitions of State and County Agricultural Societies. It will be seen at once that we could not begin to refer to so many different organizations individually. Those who have favored us with documents, announcements, &c., will please accept our thanks for their kind remembrance and consideration. On another page we have at considerable expense of labor and time prepared a full table, showing in chronological order the time and place of the Exhibitions of over two hundred Societies, and yet these comprise but a small part of the number to be held during this and the succeeding month. Is not this a cheering indication of the unprecedented interest every where awakened in the cause of agricultural improvement?

We estimate that during four weeks (the last two of September and first two in October), not less than FOUR HUNDRED great agricultural gatherings will be held in this country. If these could all be concentrated at one point, what a mighty concourse would there be of the real "bone and sinew" of the land. With our own constant home labors pressing upon us, in which there are no special seasons of repose, such as most of our readers enjoy at some time during the year, we can personally participate in only very few of these social reunions, but we shall for the next few weeks enjoy, in imagination at least, the almost innumerable gala scenes transpiring all up and down the agricultural valleys of the wide-spread domain of our loved country. We will not attempt to describe these scenes as they now appear in imagination before us—the well or poorly arranged exhibition grounds, the droves on droves of showy and valuable animals, heaps on heaps of grain, vegetables and fruits on thousands of well-laid tables, the hurrying to and fro of the officers and committees upon whom devolves the burden of seeing all things done "decently and in order," and more too, the passing in of the crowds of stalwart men of noble mien, though in rustic habiliments, accompanied by the worthy companions and help-meets of their toil, and the bevy of ruddy, healthful boys and girls, who, though properly left out of the premium lists, are perhaps the most premium-worthy productions of the country home. When we have seen these unloaded from the long rows of vehicles

that line the fences in every direction from the center point of attraction, the mind follows them into the show-grounds where, gathered in groups around this or that fine animal, or production of the field, garden or household, the old and young mingle in social chat, and in discussion of the merits of each, save when now and then interrupted by the official "stand back and make room for the Committee." Then comes the trials of strength of animals, the plowing match, the spading match, &c., and the day or days close up with the "Address," the announcement of the Committee on Awards to the anxious listeners, the satisfied or dissatisfied looks of the successful and unsuccessful competitors, and finally the general breaking up and dispersion of the throng who wend their way back to their quiet homes.

We are neither painter nor poet, or we would gladly take up the theme, and fill out a portion of these scenes, and the connected incidents, as they crowd thick upon the imagination. It is one far more inspiring than those other multitudinous crowds which this year will be collected for political purposes. But both have their uses, and each should have their due share of thought and attention. By all means let the agricultural gatherings be well attended; let every son and daughter of our great agricultural phalanx go up and meet and greet their brethren, and rejoice with each other at this festive season; and in all our joy, let us ever be mindful of Him who has promised that "seed time and harvest shall fail not," to whose kind beneficence we are indebted for the bountiful products we enjoy in this favored year of 1856.—[Ed.]

WESTERN LAND STORIES—N. Y. EVANGELIST.

In our July issue we took occasion to make some remarks in reference to Munchausen stories of the enormous products of Western lands, and the tendency of these to mislead Eastern farmers, particularly when the product of some special locality or farm was held up in such a way as to give an idea that the whole West was like unto it. In illustration, we introduced and remarked somewhat severely upon a description of an Illinois farm that had recently appeared in the New-York Evangelist. We distinctly stated that that article was merely taken "as a sample" and disclaimed any intention to disparage the writer or the owner of the farm. The article was somewhat caustic, we admit, and purposely so, for it is one part of our duty to show up, as far as may be, any schemes or influences calculated to lead astray those who occupy a less commanding field of observation. Our readers look to us for just such information, and we do not mean they shall be wholly disappointed. In the Evangelist of Aug. 21 we find a long personal explanation from the Chicago editor, Rev. Chas. P. Bush, in which he admits some of our criticisms as just, and brings forward statements to show that we were wrong in others. Our answer shall be brief: We stated that Mr. Curtis, the owner of the West Urbana farm, lived in

Chicago. Mr. Bush says he lives on his farm. As to the identity of the Mr. Curtis alluded to in Mr. Bush's correspondence, there may be two "Dromios" in the field. But when we were last year in Chicago we saw a Mr. Curtis, who was said to be a late Mayor of that city; and we were afterwards pointed to a fine new house just finishing near the lake, as belonging to "the late Mayor Curtis," and intended for his own residence. We supposed that gentleman, to be one and the same person with Mr. Bush's model farmer, who he stated to be an "ex-Mayor of Chicago." If we were mistaken as to the personal identity of the gentleman, we beg both his, and Mr. Bush's pardon, and congratulate the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois, both, on having two so spirited and liberal-minded gentlemen within their borders. All this matter of personal identity, however, as touching the gravamen of Mr. Bush's fault-finding, is immaterial, as the lawyers would say, and only incidental to the "whopping" portion of Mr. B's story of the "farming."

The drift of Mr. Bush's article is what we criticised as being exaggerated, and coloring "Illinois farming" beyond the facts as they exist. His special pleading, (in his reply,) by giving insulated cases of remarkable cultivation, and extraordinary crops, now and then, here and elsewhere, have nothing to do with the main inferences he intended to draw. We concede, if Mr. Bush pleases, the particular instances he names, and in answer to them all we repeat our former statements as the plain unvarnished truth. Refute them, if he can. We can produce statements akin to his from almost every State in the Union, so far as the pro-rata amount of crops are concerned; and we can inform him that among all fair reading, this style of representation would be called "jesuitical," incorrect—the sense in which we use this term, we presume he will understand. Plain, unvarnished truth is what we expect from a gentleman of his calling, and when they make statements apart from that, either their motives or intelligence are quite apt to be questioned. It is sufficient for us that Mr. Bush "owns up" to some of his statements, and that is enough to throw discredit on more of them, when this absolute personal knowledge is wanting.

As to Mr. Harris and his big drove of cattle, we did not deny that he was a farmer, but we said that he dealt in, drove, and fed cattle. We denied that he "bred and reared" the drove of bullocks in question. He may have 4,200 or 10,000 acres in his farm—that has nothing to do with the facts of that drove which Mr. Bush described. He does not now say that we were mistaken in what we stated—which was that Mr. Harris neither bred nor reared them. If that fact can be substantiated we will acknowledge our error—till then, our denial holds good. Mr. Harris may own, and farm all the western world, but that don't make him breed and rear that herd of cattle. In relation to the 5,876 pound ox which Mr. Bush now says is a typographical error, and takes 3,000 pounds off from him, and "a more generous

critic" would have allowed, we consider it of a piece with a part of his other statements.

We find no fault with Illinois, either in its soil, climate, or the general enterprize of its population. They are well enough, as times go. But if Mr. Bush chooses to pick out a few insulated facts, greatly out of the common line, and set them forth as common things in Illinois, as he did in the article alluded to, he will find that common credulity will be quite apt to question his own good sense, or his professional integrity, in giving them out to the world.—Ed.

STATE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS 1856.

Name.	Where Held.	Date.
Ohio and Pa. Horse.	Salem, O.	Sept. 4-6
Kentucky.	Lexington.	" 9-12
Vermont.	Burlington.	" 9-12
New-Jersey.	Newark.	" 9-12
Canada East.	Three Rivers.	" 16-18
West Virginia.	Wheeling Island.	" 17-19
Ohio.	Cleveland.	" 23-26
Canada West.	Kingston.	" 23-26
American Institute.	N.Y. Crystal Palace.	Sept. 23 to Oct. 25
Am. Pomological Society.	Rochester.	" 24
Illinois.	Alton.	" 30 Oct. 3
Michigan.	Detroit.	" 30 " 3
New-York.	Watertown.	" 30 " 3
Pennsylvania.	Pittsburgh.	" 30 " 3
Kentucky.	Paris.	" 30 " 3
Missouri.	Boonville.	Oct. 6-10
California.	San Jose.	" 7-10
Connecticut.	New-Haven.	" 7-10
National Ag. Show.	Philadelphia.	" 7-10
North Kentucky.	Florence.	" 7-11
Minnesota.	Minneapolis.	" 8-10
Wisconsin.	Milwaukee.	" 8-10
Iowa.	Muscatine.	" 8-10
New-Hampshire.	Concord.	" 13-19
Tennessee.	Nashville.	" 13-19
Amer. Inst. Cattle Show.	New-York.	" 14-17
North Carolina.	Raleigh.	" 14-17
Georgia.	Atlanta.	" 20-23
Indiana.	Indianapolis.	" 20-23
Maryland.	Baltimore.	" 21-24
Maine.	Portland.	" 21-24
Massachusetts.	Worcester.	Oct. 25
Virginia.	Richmond.	Oct. 28-Nov. 1
Alabama.	Montgomery.	Nov. 11-14
South Carolina.	Columbia.	" 11-15
South-Carolina Institute.	Charleston.	" 17-23

COUNTY SHOWS FOR 1856.

NEW-YORK.		
Madison.	Munneville.	Sept. 6-10
Chataque.	Westfield.	" 10-11
Onondaga.	Syracuse.	" 10-12
Putnam.	Lake Mahopac.	" 16-17
Rensselaer.	Lansingburg.	" 16-18
Jefferson.	Watertown.	" 17-18
Oswego.	Mexico.	" 17-18
Cayuga.	Auburn.	" 17-19
Cattaraugus.	Little Valley.	" 17-19
Washington.	Union Village.	" 17-19
St. Lawrence.	Canton.	" 17-19
Essex.	Elizabethtown.	" 18-19
Albany.	Albany.	" 23-25
Cortland.	Homer.	" 23-25
Wayne.	Lyons.	" 23-25
Oneida.	Rome.	" 23-25
Tioga.	Owego.	" 24-25
Delaware.	Walton.	" 24-25
Columbia.	Chatham.	" 24-25
Franklin.	Malone.	" 24-26
Monroe.	Rochester.	" 24-26
Ontario.	Canandaigua.	" 24-26
Queens.	Hempstead.	" 25-26
Orleans.	Albion.	" 25-26
Rockland.	New-City.	Oct. 8-9
Stenben.	Bath.	" 8-9
Schuyler.	Watkins.	" 8-9
Seneca.	Waterville.	" 8-10
Allegany.	Whitney's Valley.	Oct. 14-15

CONNECTICUT.

Litchfield.	Sept. 16-18
Windham.	" 19-20
Fairfield.	" 23-25
New-London.	" 24-25
Hartford.	Sept. 30-Oct. 3
Middlesex.	Oct. 1-3

MASSACHUSETTS.

Middlesex North.	Chelmsford.	Sept. 17-
Middlesex South.	Framingham.	" 17-18
Worcester West.	Barre.	" 18
Worcester North.	Fitchburg.	" 19
Middlesex.	Concord.	" 20
Plymouth.	Bridgewater.	" 24-25
Worcester.	Worcester.	" 24-25
Housatonic.	Great Barrington.	" 24-25
Norfolk.	Deedham.	Sept. 30-Oct. 1
Essex.	Newburyport.	Oct. 1-3
Worcester South.	Sturbridge.	" 1-3
Franklin.	Greenfield.	" 1-3
Bristol.	Fall River.	" 1-3
Hampden.	Springfield.	" 1-3
Berkshire.	Pittsfield.	" 1-3
Barnstable.	Barnstable.	" 7-8
Hampshire.	Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden.	" 7-8
Hampshire.	Amherst.	" 9-10

Camden.	Haddonfield.	Sept. 16-
Mercoer.	Hightstown.	" 17-18
Hunterdon.	Flemington.	" 17-19
Salem.	Salem.	" 18
Monmouth.	Freehold.	" 24-25
Burlington.	Mount Holly.	Sept. 30-Oct. 1
Cumberland.	Bridgeton.	Oct. 1-
Somerset.	Somerville.	" 1-2

OHIO.

Trumbull.	Warren.	" 9-11
Hamilton.	Carthage.	Sept. 9-12
Brown.	Georgetown.	" 9-12
Geauga.	Burton.	" 10-12
Conneaut.	Conneaut.	" 11-12
Medina.	Medina.	" 15-17
Meigs.	Pomeroy.	" 16-17
Clermont.	Olive Branch.	" 16-19
Ashtabula.	Jefferson.	" 17-18
Portage.	Ravenna.	" 17-18
Madison.	London.	" 17-19
Franklin.	Columbus.	" 17-19
Geauga, (Independent).	Claridon.	" 17-19
Butler.	Hamilton.	" 17-19
Knox.	Mount Vernon.	" 18-19
Lawrence.	Ironton.	" 18-19
Union Agricultural.	Huntington.	" 18-19
Lorain, Ind.	Elyria.	" 18-19
Hardin.	Kenton.	" 23-25
Monroe.	Woodfield.	" 26-27

Putnam.	Kalida.	Oct. 1-2
Ashland.	Ashland.	" 1-2
Troy.	Troy.	" 1-2
Staubenville.	Staubenville.	" 1-3
Olens.	Olens.	" 1-3
St. Clairsville.	St. Clairsville.	" 1-3
Greenville.	Greenville.	" 1-3
Fremont.	Fremont.	" 1-3
Muskingum.	Zanesville.	" 1-3
Delaware.	Delaware.	" 1-3
Richland.	Mansfield.	" 1-3
Erie.	Huron.	" 1-3
Clark.	Springfield.	" 1-3
Lake.	Painesville.	" 1-3
Morgan.	McConnellsville.	" 1-3
Greene.	Xenia.	" 1-3
Stark.	Massillon.	" 1-3
Holmes.	Millersburg.	" 2-3
Highland.	Hillsboro.	" 2-3
Wayne.	Wooster.	" 6-8
Williams.	Bryan.	" 7-9
Cuyahoga.	Cleveland.	" 7-8
Mahoning.	Cansfield.	" 7-9
Warren.	Lebanon.	" 7-9
Montgomery.	Dayton.	" 7-9
Licking.	Newark.	" 8-9
Ottaway.	Port Clinton.	" 8-9
Harrison.	Cadiz.	" 8-10
Preble.	Eaton.	" 8-10
Summit.	Akron.	" 8-10
Loraine.	Elyria.	" 8-10
Champaign.	Urbana.	" 8-10
Washington.	Marietta.	" 8-10
Guernsey.	Cambridge.	" 9-10
Ross.	Chillicothe.	" 9-10
Hancock.	Finley.	" 9-10
Columbiana.	New Lisbon.	" 9-11
Morrow.	Mount Gilead.	" 9-11
Clinton.	Wilmington.	" 10-11
Logan.	Bellefontaine.	" 14-16
Pickaway.	Circleville.	" 15-17
Adams.	West Union.	" 15-17
Crawford.	Bucyrus.	" 16-17
Union.	Marysville.	" 16-17
Coshocton.	Coshocton.	" 16-18
Noble.	Sarahsville.	" 16-18
Tuscarawas.	Canal Dover.	" 16-18
Seneca.	Tiffin.	" 23-24
Carroll.	Carrollton.	" 23-30

MICHIGAN.

Jacksonville.	Sept. 16-19
Belleville.	" 17-18
Wheaton.	" 17-18
Havana.	" 17-19
Toulon.	" 19-20
Robinson.	" 23-24
Ottawa.	" 23-25
Rockford.	" 23-25
Geneva.	" 23-25
Springfield.	" 23-26
Piano.	" 24-25
Jonesboro.	" 24-25
Tremont.	" 24-25
Bloomington.	" 24-26
Peru.	Oct. 7-9
Lacon.	" 8-9
Lawrenceville.	" 10-11
Byron.	" 21-23

IOWA.

Mt. Pleasant.	Sept. 23-30
Fairfield.	Oct. 1-2
Washington.	" 1-2
West Point.	" 1-3
Keosauqua.	" 1-3

KENTUCKY.

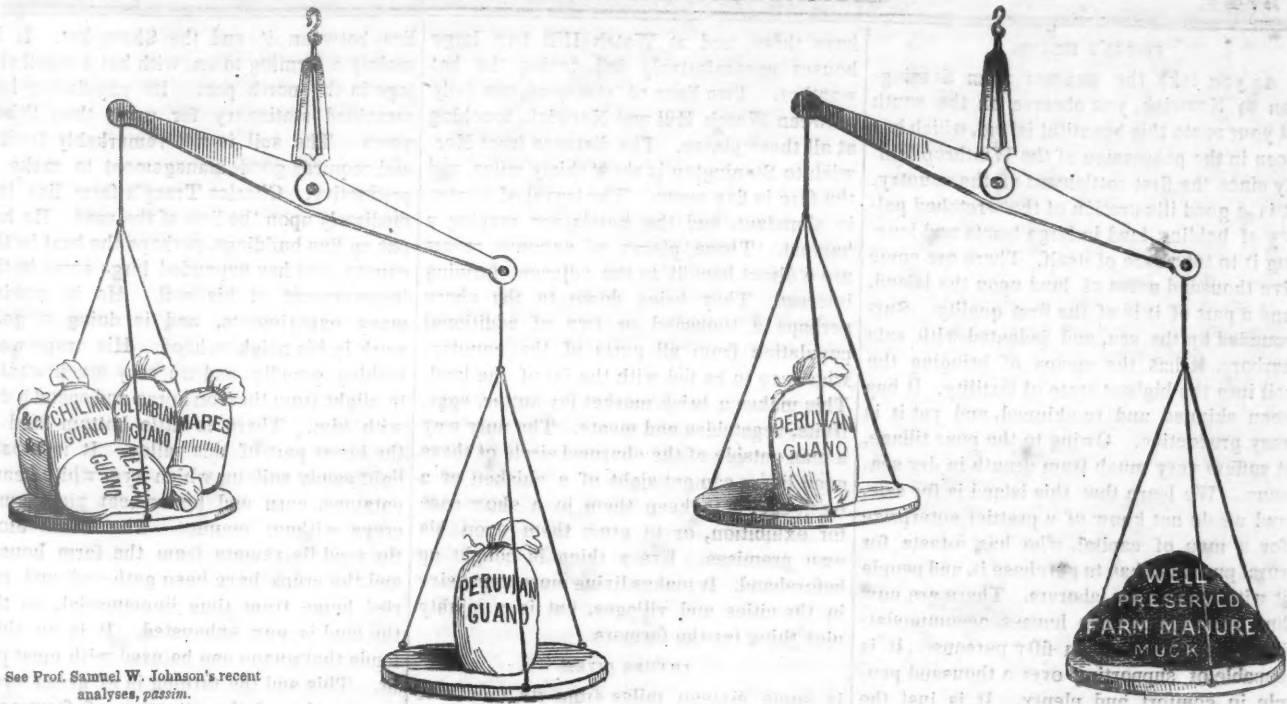
Lexington.	Sept. 9-12
Harrison.	" 16-18
Germantown.	" 23-26
Logan.	Oct. 1-3
Union.	" 7-10
Northern Kentucky.	" 7-11
Southwestern.	" 14-16

MISSOURI.

Callaway.	Sept. 23-26
St. Louis.	" 23-26
Boone.	" 23-27
South Western.	Sept. 30-Oct. 3
Central Missouri.	Oct. 1-
Ray.	" 6-10
South East.	" 15-18
Jackson.	" 16-18

MARYLAND.

Rockville.	Sept. 10-
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See Prof. Samuel W. Johnson's recent analyses, *passim*.

AGRICULTURAL SCALES.

FISH PIE.

This is the favorite name of a compost of fish and muck or loam in some parts of Long Island. As this is the season in which this interesting dish is prepared, we have a few remarks upon it. The name of the compost is not so wide of the mark as it might be, for it is the *raw material* of vegetable and fruit pies. The compost at the root of apple and pear trees, around strawberry vines, raspberry and blackberry bushes, will be transmuted into splendid fruits the first season. The great fault in the manufacture of the pie is too much body and too little crust. Indeed, we have rarely met with a fish compost that was satisfactorily made. Some farmers prepare it by simply plowing up a strip of turf under the wall, dropping the fish, and covering them with a single layer of sods, not more than six or eight inches deep. This is altogether too slight, and a large part of the ammonia is lost.

We have just completed a compost heap that we suppose to be right, from the fact that little or no smell of ammonia has arisen from it. We first put upon the ground a layer of mirish turf, eight or ten inches thick, packed as closely as possible. The surface was so large that nine thousand fish scattered over it thinly, barely covered it. Upon this layer of fish we put about a foot of marsh muck; then eight thousand fish, another layer of muck, a third layer of fish, and a top layer of muck, at least eighteen inches thick. The heap as completed is about four feet high, and measures about thirty cords. A few worms worked out at the sides for a few days, but the effluvia was confined. The twenty-five thousand fish cost us twenty dollars upon the shore, and the muck the labor of digging it. The heap will need forking over once or twice, and

when completed will be worth sixty dollars at least. The value of the muck as it lay in the bed, and the labor expended, we estimate at twenty dollars, leaving twenty dollars profit. All the fish is saved, and the muck is well cured by the decomposition.

We are confident that shore farmers can not get their fertilizers any cheaper than by making fish compost. Where large quantities of muck are used with the fish, the land will not become exhausted, or be overrun with sorrel. It is better to use a portion of the muck in this way, rather than to cast it all into the farm-yard. It saves the expense of once carting, to make the compost heap upon the ground where it is to be used. We would make about one heap for an acre of ground, and put a cord or two of muck to every thousand fish. Upon light sandy or gravelly loams, we are confident this compost will do much better service than any concentrated fertilizer. Shore farmers, who have plenty of muck upon their premises, are inexcusable for neglecting fish pie.—[E.]

EDITOR'S FARM NOTES.

OR GLEANINGS AMONG PRACTICAL MEN.

Eastern Connecticut—Stonington—Fisher's Island for sale, a fine opening for capital in gardening, &c.—The Thames River—Farming in Quinebaug Valley, &c.

We recently took a trip through the counties of New London and Windham, Ct., and present an abstract from our "notes." On every hand there is evidence of new ideas abroad among the people. Stonington, the southeast corner town of this State, has a hard granite soil, but it yields very abundantly under good cultivation. It is admirably adapted to the cultivation of Indian corn, and we have no where met with

better looking crops of this grain than are now standing upon these fields. An unusually large breadth is planted this year, and in some instances the fields come down to the edge of tide water. This town is so nearly surrounded with water, and is so indented with coves and bays, that it possesses remarkable facilities for manuring its soils. Immense quantities of sea-weed are thrown upon the shores, and upon the adjacent islands, and it is gathered and carried back three or four miles from the shore. Upon the shore farms this is sometimes spread green upon the turf and plowed in, but more generally is carted into the yard as an absorbent of the gases of stable manure. Farmers who live more remote from the water secure the weed in scows by raking the flats upon which it grows. It is then floated up to the head of the coves, and carted directly from the scow to the barn-yard. The most of the weed taken in this way is secured in August and in the fall months.

Besides this valuable fertilizer, the town has inexhaustible supplies of marsh mud and peat bogs. These are used to some extent, and give great satisfaction to those who have tried them most largely. But the cheapest and best fertilizer is the fish which swarm along the coast all through the summer and autumn. They take the porgies early in the season, and these are used in the hill for potatoes or for corn. The moss bunkers come early in June, and are taken in immense quantities, a single seine often catching a hundred thousand in a day. These are used, applied to the growing crops in the manner noticed in the last number of the *Agriculturist*, and composted with muck in large quantities. These compost heaps will be spread and plowed in next spring.

FISHER'S ISLAND.

As you take the steamer from Stonington to Norwich, you observe on the south of your route this beautiful island, which has been in the possession of the Winthrop family since the first settlement of the country. It is a good illustration of the wretched policy of holding land in large tracts and leaving it to take care of itself. There are some five thousand acres of land upon the island, and a part of it is of the first quality. Surrounded by the sea, and indented with safe harbors, it has the means of bringing the soil into the highest state of fertility. It has been skinned and re-skinned, and yet it is very productive. Owing to the poor tillage, it suffers very much from drouth in dry seasons. We learn that this island is for sale, and we do not know of a prettier enterprize for a man of capital, who has a taste for rural pursuits, than to purchase it, and people it with industrious laborers. There are now but a few small farm houses, accommodating probably less than fifty persons. It is capable of supporting over a thousand people in comfort and plenty. It is just the spot for a community of gardeners to locate. All the island could be profitably cultivated in small fruits to supply the New York market. The strawberry, raspberry and blackberry flourish along the neighboring shore in the greatest luxuriance, and if plantations were made of these fruits, they would ripen just after the Jersey and Long Island gardens, and would prolong the season of these delicious fruits. We would cut up the island into small homesteads of ten or twelve acres, and rent or sell as suited the means and wishes of the settler. We would bring the settlers from Europe. This speculation is projected for the benefit of any of our amateur gardeners who have plenty of capital, and want to make a good investment.

PEQUONNOC PLAIN.

On the north of the route you spy a wind-mill near the mouth of the Pequonnoc river. This mill pumps water for an oil factory. Vast quantities of moss bunkers are caught in the adjacent waters along the coast, and are here made into oil, and the refuse fish sold to the farmers for manure. On either side of the river are extensive plains spread out, once excellent land, but now run out with hard cropping. The fish are completely transforming it. Great crops of potatoes, corn and other cereals are grown wherever the fish are applied. This factory has quickened the farming interest throughout the neighborhood.

WATERING PLACES.

All along the shores, from New London to Watch Hill, hotels have been put up within a few years for the accommodation of summer guests. On the west side of New London harbor is the Pequod House, a first class establishment, well filled with select company. On the east side are the Griswold House and the Ocean House. At Bradford's Island a new house has been put up the past winter, and is now well filled. Two miles up the Mystic river they have two hotels for summer visitors. At Stonington they

have three, and at Watch Hill two large houses uncomfortably full during the hot weather. Two lines of steamers run daily between Watch Hill and Norwich, touching at all these places. The distance from Norwich to Stonington is about thirty miles, and the fare is five cents. The travel of course is abundant, and the hotels are reaping a harvest. These places of summer resort are a direct benefit to the adjacent farming interest. They bring down to the shore perhaps a thousand or two of additional population from all parts of the country, who have to be fed with the fat of the land. This makes a brisk market for butter, eggs, fruits, vegetables and meats. The only way a man outside of the charmed circle of these good liveries can get sight of a chicken or a fresh egg, is to keep them in a show case for exhibition, or to grow them upon his own premises. Every thing is bought up beforehand. It makes living more expensive in the cities and villages, but is a mighty nice thing for the farmers.

THAMES RIVER

is some sixteen miles from its mouth to Norwich, at the head of sloop navigation. It is one of the most picturesque streams in New England, and were the tide of travel upon it like that upon the Hudson, it would be as well known and as much appreciated for its peculiar beauties. The scenery along its banks is not so grand as that of the Hudson. There are no Palisades or lofty mountains, but on every side rugged granite hills, now covered with forest, and now cropping out in bare rock. There is no extensive tract of interval, as along the Connecticut or the Hudson, but on the whole length of the stream the hills push boldly into the water. The valley is sparsely settled with farmers. There are many beautiful sites for country residences along this river, and the day is not distant when they will be occupied. It is a part of the thoroughfare between New York and Boston, and is within easy distance of both these cities.

The farms in this valley are among the best in the county. The premium crop of Indian corn was grown here, measuring one hundred and eleven bushels to the acre. The river furnishes large quantities of seaweed and fish, and it only needs more capital expended in manures to bring the farms here to the highest state of fertility.

THE VALLEY OF THE QUINEBAUG.

Leaving the steamer at Norwich, we take the railroad up through this valley. The Quinebaug is a model stream for manufacturers, and is pretty well improved, though there are several spots where the whole power of the stream is unused. There is a large fall near its mouth, and another at Jewett City, that are waiting for capital to turn the water upon the wheels and put the spindles in motion. Several manufacturing villages have been built up in this valley, Jewett City, Central Village, Danielsonville, Wauregan, Dayville, &c. These are thriving villages, and afford good markets for the products of the neighboring farms.

LISBON

is the lowest town on the Quinebaug, and

lies between it and the Shetucket. It is mainly a farming town, with but a small village in the north part. Its population has remained stationary for more than thirty years. The soil is not remarkably fertile, and requires good management to make it productive. Charles Tracy's farm lies immediately upon the line of the road. He has put up fine buildings, perhaps the best in the county, and has expended large sums in the improvement of his soil. He is making many experiments, and is doing a good work in his neighborhood. His crops were looking grandly, and we very much wanted to alight from the iron horse and spend a day with him. There is little bottom land in the lower part of this valley. It is mostly light sandy soil on which rye, white beans, potatoes, corn and buckwheat yield small crops without manure. The lands along the road lie remote from the farm houses, and the crops have been gathered and carried home from time immemorial, so that the land is now exhausted. It is on these lands that guano can be used with most profit. This and the turning in of green crops are worthy of the attention of farmers in this town. We commend to their notice the experiment of Mr. Lockwood, recorded in our last issue under the head of "Buckwheat as a Green Crop." The soil of this valley is naturally adapted to rye, and it only needs higher tillage to bring it back to its original fertility. Lisbon has a few good farmers who take the papers, and are putting in practice better methods of husbandry. H. L. Read, the efficient Secretary of the New London County Agricultural Society, resides here, and is successful in vegetable gardening and fruit culture, as well as in field crops. We see frequent evidence of progress in the muck heaps and drained lands, and in the luxuriant crops upon fields, that a few years since were barren sheep pastures.

The County Society is vigorous, and its influence is felt for good in every township and every rural parish. There is a new interest among farmers, and their sons begin to look upon farm life with complacency. We hope the tide has turned here, and that these parishes will be able to retain a larger portion of their youth at home. Our notes on Windham county we must reserve.—[Ed.]

A PUNCTUATED RETRACTION.—A member of the English Parliament having charged an officer of the Government with dishonesty, was required to retract it before the House of Commons, which he did in the following words: "I said he was dishonest, it is true; and I am sorry for it." This was pronounced satisfactory, but he managed to have the printed report of the transaction read thus: "I said he was dishonest; it is true, and I am sorry for it."

ANOTHER RETRACTION.—An officer having become offended at another, said of him: "He is not fit to carry garbage to swine." He was called upon by officer No. 2, who required him to retract his statement. "I will take it back," said he, "and I now say you are just fitted for such an occupation."

THE VALUE OF SWAMP MUCK.

There are comparatively few farms that do not contain invaluable beds of peat, muck, or deposits of decaying vegetable matter of some kind. Those even upon the summit or sides of hills, almost invariably furnish occasional low spots, into which the washings of higher ground have settled from year to year. These masses of black earth are made up of organic materials, such as decayed or decaying leaves, roots, and fibres of grass, &c.

It is now admitted by all experienced and intelligent cultivators, that such substances furnish a direct pabulum or food to the roots of all growing plants, and it is of the highest importance to every farmer who would thrive in his business, to hunt up and use all such materials. This dry weather furnishes the most favorable opportunity for digging out muck from the low swamps, which, from being filled with standing water, are inaccessible during most of the year.

This work should be attended to now, and not put off until sowing winter crops occupy the whole farm force, or till the fall rains stop this work for the year. Where it is at all practicable, we advise every farmer to dig out and heap up to dry, at least five loads of swamp muck, or black vegetable mold, for each load of manure he expects to produce for twelve months to come. If dry, it is an excellent material to put freely into the stables at all times, to absorb liquid manures, as well as the gaseous products of all solid animal excrements. One load of horse or cow droppings thus mixed, and composted with three loads of good black muck, is quite as valuable as two, or even three loads of the same manure not thus treated. Mr. C. L. Flint, the able Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, introduced into a recent report to the Board, some valuable information on this subject. He says: "The term *muck* is generally applied by New England farmers to the mass of vegetable matter usually found in peat-swamps; by English farmers to rotting straw, &c., and by Scotch farmers to barn-yard manure." Mr. F. uses the word in its common signification in this country, referring to the remains of trees and plants, some of which must have lived ages ago more or less perfectly decomposed, and sometimes extending to a depth of many feet. This substance is made up of different constituents in different localities, and its quality is therefore very variable. Hence we find a great variety of opinions as to the value of swamp muck as a manure. The various estimates of the value of swamp muck range from 33 cents to \$3 per cord, and give an average of \$1.27; and as there is no reason to suppose that the estimated value is not the real value in each locality, it follows that no general real value can be definitely fixed. This depends on its quality.

Swamp muck is often cold and sour, and requires the addition of lime and exposure to the atmosphere and to frosts before it can be advantageously applied as manure. There are different modes of preparing it for use.

The most common is to dig it out, expose it to the frost through the winter, and then put it into the barn-yard to be composted with the stable manure. The following statements are from experienced, practical men in Massachusetts, and each gives the results of the observation of its writer:

A Middlesex farmer says: "I use swamp muck most successfully, composted with stable manure, on different varieties of soils, but think it does best on high land of a loamy soil. I notice it is used very extensively by farmers, with satisfactory results, when composted with other manures thoroughly."

A farmer of Worcester county says: "I use it extensively on my hard, clay soils; it works well on dry lands to keep them moist, and on clay soils to keep them light." Another writer from Dukes county follows: "It should be hauled out in the fall, and exposed to the frost during winter, and mixed with stable manure in the proportion of two parts muck to one of manure; it should also be used in the hog-pen, barn-yard and barn-cellar. I have found it a good manure on loamy, gravelly and sandy land, especially for top-dressing for grass, when composted as above." A Norfolk county farmer, who had met with great success, says: "The best way of using swamp muck is to dig it and expose it to the sun, air and rains one year, and then, when in a dry state, place it in a barn-cellar, where it will take the droppings of the cattle above, until it is thoroughly saturated; then mix it well, and it is ready for use. It is good for all dry lands. He estimates it at about three dollars by the cord of one hundred and two bushels." A Middlesex farmer of great experience states that "swamp muck is of different qualities, and varies as much as wood when used for fuel. Peat mud, the older the better, consists principally of vegetable matter. It has most effect on high and dry ground. Wood ashes are the best article to correct its acidity."

Similar accounts come from every section of the State. From Hampshire county, we have the following: "The best method of using swamp muck, judging from experiments of my neighbors and my own, is to cart out in the autumn, expose it to the frosts and snows, then spread and plow it in the spring on sandy, dry soils, or in other words, on soils of an opposite nature to its own. I plowed in twenty-five loads on one-quarter of an acre, last spring, and planted it to early potatoes, corn, peas, cucumbers, squashes and melons. It was a great preventive against drouth. That ground has been sown to rye, and it looks first rate." And from Plymouth county: "Swamp muck, as also upland soils, are valuable to mix with various kinds of manure to retain and absorb the salts. For upwards of two years I have adopted a different course with my swamp land from any I know of. I employ men with long-bitted hoes, sward hooks, &c., to dig up the hummocks and bushes, in bodies large and small, as is convenient, and pile them in bunches for a few days to dry, after which, I select a central

bunch, in which I form a cavity or hole near the bottom or surface of the ground. Then I set fire to some of the driest and most combustible, and as it burns, I replenish it from the other bunches, smothering in the coal-pit form, though more combustible, till it burned down to a perfect body of ashes and sand. I have not carried the experiment into full effect, as I designed to; but so far as I have used the ashes, they have given me entire satisfaction. Their nature is to improve exhausted lands; and my belief is, that they may be spread upon the same land upon which the ashes were made, and increase the growth of English grass. Much has been said upon the subject of reclaiming wet swampy lands; but after all that has been done, as I understand it, a coat of manure is required to produce a good crop of English grass. Now, if our worthless swamp lands possess the very article required to produce such grass by the simple process above named, I think it would be an improvement in one point of agriculture."

A farmer of Barnstable county says: "The best compost manure is made in our barn and hog-yards, of swamp muck, sea-weed and animal manure. Swamp muck and sea-weed are accessible to all who will take the trouble to procure them. My barn and hog-yards are so excavated and dug as to absorb the liquids passed into them. Every spring and summer, after my barn-yard is emptied, I replenish it from time to time with swamp muck, peat, sea-weed, and other materials from the farm, which, with the animal manure produced by yarding my cattle, furnish me in the autumn with two hundred loads of good compost, which I either stack in the yard, or cart on to the land I intend to plant in the spring. I again replenish the yard, giving me, with the proceeds of my hog-yard, from one hundred to one hundred and fifty loads more in the following spring. In addition, I have for two years past composted, in the field adjoining my peat bog, from seventy-five to one hundred loads of peat (thrown from the pit in summer or autumn) with sea and rock-weed, or ashes and animal manure, which I esteem of equal value to barn-yard manure. I estimate the value of a cord, or four ox-cart loads of barn-yard manure, composted as above, at from \$4 to \$5. We esteem the value of this for a corn crop, and the improvement of land higher than pure animal manure."

We give one more extract from a farmer of Berkshire county. He says: "I have used swamp muck for a number of years past with good results, by mixing it with yard and stable manures in the proportion of one-third to one-half muck, and consider it worth \$1 per load to use for agricultural purposes on soils that are a mixture of loam and gravel."

The testimony is uniformly in favor of composting muck with other manures. Its power of absorbing valuable liquid and gaseous substances is very considerable, and this makes it an excellent substance to mix with guano when the latter is to be used as a top-dressing. The importance of a free

use of dry swamp muck as an absorbent of the liquid manures of the barn and stable can hardly be over-estimated. The loss throughout the State from the neglect and consequent waste of these rich manures, which, with a little care, might all be saved, is almost incredible. The attention of farmers was but lately called to the subject; but the value of the substances is acknowledged by some, and efforts are now being made to save them by means of the use of muck and loam, either properly composted in the barn-cellar, or supplied daily to the stalls of cattle. No judicious farmer should neglect to save all such substances as tend to increase the value and productiveness of his lands. It is poor economy and bad calculation to buy concentrated manures, or buy any manures abroad, till everything of the kind is saved at home.

From what has been said, we may infer that good swamp muck is worth on an average from \$1 25 to \$1 50 per cord, and that it is best on light, loamy, sandy, or gravelly soils, and that it is valuable as a compost with barn-yard manures, or with guano.

TEA FOR SICK HORSES.

Linseed tea is not only a valuable restorative for sick horses, but it is exceedingly useful in diseases of inflammation of the membranes peculiar to the organs of respiration and digestion; it shields and lubricates the same, tranquilizes the irritable state of the parts, and favors healthy action. We have prescribed linseed tea in large quantities during the past month for horses laboring under the prevailing influenza; they seemed to derive much benefit from it, and generally drank it with avidity. Aside from the benefit derived from the action of mucilage and oil, which the seed contains, its nutritive elements are of some account, especially when given to animals laboring under soreness in the organs of deglutition, which incapacitates them from swallowing more solid food. In the event of an animal becoming prostrated by inability to masticate or swallow more food, linseed tea may be resorted to, and in cases of irritable cough, the addition of a little honey makes it still more useful. In the latter form, it may be given to animals laboring under acute or chronic diseases of the urinary apparatus, more especially of the kidneys.

TO PREPARE LINSEED TEA.—Put a couple of handfuls of the seed into a bucket, and pour a gallon and a half of boiling hot water upon it. Cover it up a short time; then add a couple of quarts of cold water, when it will be fit for use.—[Amer. Vet. Journal.]

"Why," said a country clergyman to one of his flock, "do you always sleep in your pew when I am in the pulpit, while you are all attention to every stranger I invite?" "Because, sir, when you preach, I'm sure all's right; but I can't trust a stranger without keeping a good look out."

To know everything of something is better than to know something of everything.



A RELIC OF THE PAST.

HARVESTING POTATOES.

To the Editor of the American Agriculturist:

I wish some of your numerous readers would furnish their experience as to the best way of harvesting, or rather securing potatoes, especially in years of extreme rot. I will set the ball in motion by giving a little of my own experience.

I have worked a farm over fifty years, and have cultivated potatoes more or less every year. Fifty years ago little was thought of this root. A row or two were planted on the outside of corn-fields, or in some corner of a lot unfit for anything else. Ten to fifteen bushels was an ample supply for a family. There is a great difference between then and now as regards this crop, for potatoes are now one of the most important branches of Agriculture.

But we have lost much of this valuable crop of late years by the rot. For a number of years I have harvested between four and five thousand bushels. Last Fall I lost over half of them before they were sold in the city of New-York.

There are different methods of harvesting, depending upon the time of digging, and mode of securing afterwards. I will notice three only.

First—I commence digging the first week in October, putting them in heaps of 30 to 40 bushels each, and covering them with straw and two or three inches of soil. They are left in this condition until the first of November, when I commence loading upon boats for market. The difficulty experienced in this method is that they heat, especially when much affected with the rot, and the heating hastens the decay.

Second—They may be left in the ground undug, until late in the season, or until near the time when the ground closes for the Winter. There are two objections to this course. The potatoes near the surface or partly out are quite liable to get frost-bitten, which increases the rot; and then there is not time enough left to secure a large crop before Winter sets in as far north as latitude 44°.

Third—They may be dug in September, when the rot first makes its appearance, and dried well in the sun, and then be spread on barn floors or other dry places for four or five weeks. This plan, if it prevents the rot, is an injury to the potatoes and reduces their real value ten or twelve per cent. They should be kept from air and light as much as possible.

Any information or advice that yourself or any of your correspondents may give on this subject will be of general value, and will be thankfully received by

AN OLD FARMER.

CROWN POINT, Essex Co., N. Y.,

August 11, 1856.

The above is an important topic. Will not a number of our readers who have had experience in raising and marketing potatoes, please send us their suggestions at an early day, so that we may give something from them on this subject in our next number? We are glad to hear from all our readers with regard to their farm experiences, and particularly so from those whose observations, like those of our correspondent, extend over a long life of agricultural labor.—[Ed.]

TIM BUNKER ON SUBSOILING.

It has been stirring times in Hookertown recently, on account of the advent of the subsoil plow. Deacon Smith had one last spring, and if Barnum's elephant had come along with it, the team would not have made half the talk the plow made. Elephants they had all seen or heard of at the menagerie, as a kind of monster never designed to run in opposition to horses or any other farm team. But a subsoil plow was "a new fangled consarn that the deacon was gwine to poke into the yaller dirt to astonish the natives." It was entirely contrary to all well established notions in this venerable community, and was looked upon as an intruder.

The deacon's barn-yard was a scene for a painter when the neighbors dropped in to examine the new tool. Tim Bunker was there of course, and Jotham Sparrowgrass, Seth Twigs the smoker, John Tinker, and Tom Jones.

Esquire Bunker's views were not very definite as to the construction of the plow, and he wanted to know.

"Why, Deacon, where is the mold-board?"

"I should not wonder if it screwed on," responded Mr. Twigs, half inquiringly.

"Now what do you call that ere article?" asked Tom Jones.

"It is a mighty lean looking consarn, ain't it?" says John Tinker.

"And I guess the crops it will make will be leaner," chimed in Jotham Sparrowgrass. "You see, Deacon, I know all about these subsoilers. They tried an experiment when I was a boy, over on the island. You know Ben Miller got a notion in his head that the fish manure all leached down into the sile and that was the reason why we did not get any better crops after we had used them

few years. So he took his old plain lot, and plowed two furrows in a place, and turned up the biggest sight of yaller dirt you ever laid eyes on. It looked for all the world like so many acres of Scotch snuff. The result was that he planted corn there, and did not get ten bushels to the acre. The land was spilt, and it is of no use to talk to me about stirring the subsile."

Argument of course was out of the question, and the Deacon showed his good sense by leaving the plow to speak for itself. He subsoiled a field properly, and planted with corn. He also induced Tim Bunker to try it on a patch of his garden where he was purposing to plant carrots and melons.

The month of July brought a drouth in Hookertown. Uncle Jotham's garden felt it severely, and he had plenty of neighbors to sympathize with him in his lamentations over withered vegetables.

Tim Bunker called him into his garden one day as he was passing.

"See here, I want you to look at my carrots, and see how green they are where I used the Deacon's subsoil plow. They are growing now as fast as if they had a plenty of rain, and over there is a piece in John Tinker's garden that looks as if the lightning had struck it. He put on a good deal more manure than I did, and you see the difference."

"Who would have thought it!" exclaimed Uncle Jotham. "I guess you have put on water."

"Have you seen the Deacon's garden? It is all as green as a leek, and nobody would think there had been no rain for three weeks. You see there is no getting round the facts, and I have made up my mind to try a subsoil plow this fall. It must be a great thing to guard crops against drouth, and I shall try it on the piece of land that I sow with rye."

Jotham Sparrowgrass was much less voluble than usual during the call, and went home soliloquizing, "Wonder if Tim Bunker did water them carrots!"—[Ed.]

THE HASTY PUDDING.—We hesitated for some time before giving the necessary space for this famous old poem, but we have had sundry enquiries respecting it, and we suspect many of our readers have not chanced to meet with it. To some, the first few lines may appear dry, but no one will read through the first half and stop there.—[Ed.]

An advertisement in an Irish paper lately, setting forth the many conveniences and advantages to be derived from metal window sashes, among other particulars observed, "that these sashes would last for ever; and afterwards, if the owner had no use for them, they might be sold for old iron."

The Emperor of China, instead of paying the doctor as we do when we are unwell, the instant he is taken ill stops the pay of his physician, and does not renew it until he is quite well again.

The handsomest flower is not the sweetest.



THE HASTY-PUDDING.

Written at Chambrery, in Savoy, France, January, 1793.

BY JOEL BARLOW,

Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States.

CANTO I.

Ye Alps audacious, thro' the heavens that rise,
To cramp the day and hide me from the skies;
Ye Gallic flags that o'er their heights unfurl'd,
Bear death to kings, and freedom to the world,
I sing not you. A softer theme I choose,
A virgin theme, unconscious of the Muse,
But fruitful rich, well suited to inspire
The purest frenzy of poetic fire.

Despise it not, ye Bards to terror steel'd,
Who hurl'd your thunders round the epic field;
Nor ye who strain your midnight throats to sing
Joys that the vineyard and the still-house bring;
Or on some distant fair your notes employ,
And speak of raptures that you ne'er enjoy.
I sing the sweets I know, the charms I feel,
My morning incense, and my evening meal,
The sweets of Hasty-Pudding. Come, dear bowl,
Glide o'er my palate, and inspire my soul.
The milk beside thee, smoking from the kine,
Its substance mingled, married it with thine,
Shall cool and temper thy superior heat,
And save the pains of blowing while I eat.

Oh! could the smooth, the emblematic song
Flow like the genial juices o'er my tongue,
Could those mild morsels in my numbers chime,
And as they roll in substance, roll in rhyme,
No more thy awkward unpoetic name,
Should shun the Muse, or prejudice thy fame;
But, rising grateful to th' accustomed ear,
All bards should catch it, and all realms revere!

Assist me first with pious toil to trace,
Thro' wrecks of time thy lineage and thy race;
Declare what lovely squaw, in days of yore,
(Ere great Columbus sought thy native shore,)
First gave thee to the world; her works of fame
Have liv'd indeed, but liv'd without a name.
Some tawny Ceres, goddess of her days,
First learn'd with stones to crack the well-dry'd maize,

Thro' the rough sieve to shake the golden show'r
In boiling water stir the yellow flour—
The yellow flour, bestrew'd and stirr'd with haste,
Swells in the flood and thickens to a paste,
Then puffs and wallows, rises to the brim,
Drinks the dry knobs that on the surface swim;
The knobs at last the busy ladle breaks,
And the whole mass its true consistence takes.

Could but her sacred name, unknown so long,
Rise like her labors, to the son of song,
To her, to them, I'd consecrate my lays,
And blow her pudding with the breath of praise
If 'twas Oella, whom I sang before,
I here ascribe her one great virtue more.
Nor thro' the rich Peruvian realms alone
The fame of Sol's sweet daughter should be known
But o'er the world's wide climes should live secure
Far as his rays extend, as long as they endure.

Dear Hasty-Pudding, what unpromised joy

Expands my heart, to meet thee in Savoy!

Doom'd o'er the world thro' devious paths to roam
Each clime my country, and each house my home,
My soul is sooth'd, my cares have found an end,
I greet my long-lost, unforgotten friend.

For thee thro' Paris, that corrupted town,
How long in vain I wander'd up and down,
Where shameless Bacchus, with his drenching hoard

Cold from his cave, usurps the morning board,
London is lost in smoke and steep'd in tea;
No Yankee there can lisp the name of thee;
The uncouth word, a libel on the town,
Would call a proclamation from the crown.*
From climes oblique, that fear the sun's full rays,
Chill'd in their fogs, exclude the gen'rous maize;
A grain whose rich luxuriant growth requires
Short gentle showers, and bright ethereal fires.

But here, tho' distant from our native shore,
With mutual glee we meet and laugh once more
The same! I know thee by that yellow face,
That strong complexion of true Indian race,
Which time can never change, nor soil impair,
Nor Alpine snows, nor Turkey's morbid air;
For endless years, thro' every mild domain,
Where grows the maize, there thou art sure to reign.

But man, more fickle, the bold license claims,
In different realms to give thee different names.
Thee the soft nations round the warm Levant
Polanta call; the French, of course, *Polante*;
Ev'n in thy native regions, how I blush
To hear the Pennsylvanians call thee *Mush*!
On Hudson's banks, while men of Belgic spawn
Insult and eat thee by the name *Sappan*.
All spurious appellations, void of truth;
I've better known thee from my earliest youth,
Thy name is *Hasty-Pudding*! Thus our sires
Were wont to greet thee fuming from their fires;
And while they argu'd in thy just defence
With logic clear, they thus explain'd the sense:—
"In *haste* the boiling caldron o'er the blaze,
"Receives and cooks the ready-powder'd maize;
"In *haste* 'tis serv'd and then in equal *haste*,
"With cooling milk, we make the sweet repast.
"No carving to be done, no knife to grate
"The tender ear, and wound the stony plate;
"But the smooth spoon, just fitted to the lip,
"And taught with art the yielding mass to dip,
"By frequent journeys to the bowl well stored
"Performs the hasty honors of the board."
Such is thy name, significant and clear,
A name, a sound to every Yankee dear,
But most to me, whose heart and palate chaste
Preserve my pure hereditary taste.

There are who strive to stamp with disrepute
The luscious food, because it feeds the brute;
In tropes of high-strain'd wit, while gaudy prigs
Compare thy nursing man to pamper'd pigs;
With sovereign scorn I treat the vulgar jest,
Nor fear to share thy bounties with the beast.
What tho' the gen'rous cow gives me to quaff
The milk nutritious; am I then a calf?
Or can the genius of the noisy swine,
Tho' nurs'd on pudding, thence lay claim to mine?
Sure the sweet song, I fashion to thy praise,
Runs more melodious than the notes they raise.

My song resounding in its grateful glee,
No merit claims; I praise myself in thee.
My father lov'd thee thro' his length of days!
For thee his fields were shaded o'er with maize;
From thee what health, what vigor he possess'd,
Ten sturdy freemen from his loins attest:
Thy constellation ruled my natal morn,
And all my bones were made of Indian corn.
Delicious grain! whatever form it take,

* A certain king, at the time when this was written, was publishing proclamations to prevent American principles from being propagated in his country.

To roast or boil, to smother or to bake,
In ev'ry dish 'tis welcome still to me,
But most, my Hasty-Pudding, most in thee.

Let the green succotash with thee contend,
Let beans and corn their sweetest juices blend,
Let butter drench them in its yellow tide,
And a long slice of bacon grace their side ;
Not all the plate, how fam'd soe'er it be,
Can please my palate like a bowl of thee.

Some talk of *Hoe-cake*, fair Virginia's pride,
Rich *Johnny-cake* this mouth has often tried ;
Both please me well, their virtues much the same,
Alike their fabric as allied their fame
Except in dear New-England, where the last
Receives a dash of pumpkin in the paste,
To give it sweetness, and improve the taste.
But place them all before me, smoking hot,
The big round dumpling rolling from the pot ;
The pudding of the bag, whose quiv'ring breast,
With suet lin'd, leads on the Yankee feast ;
The Charlotte brown, within whose crusty sides
A belly soft the pulpy apple hides ;
The yellow bread, whose face like amber glows,
And all of Indian that the bake-pan knows—
You tempt me not—my fav'rite greets my eyes,
To that lov'd bowl my spoon by instinct flies.

CANTO II.

To mix the food by vicious rules of art,
To kill the stomach and to sink the heart,
To make mankind, to social virtue sour,
Cram o'er each dish, and be what they devour,
For this the kitchen Muse first fram'd her book ;
Commanding sweets to stream from every cook ;
Children no more their antic gambols tried,
And friends to physic wonder'd why they died.
Not so the Yankee—his abundant feast,
With simples furnish'd, and with plainness dress'd,
A num'rous offspring gathers round the board,
And cheers alike the servant and the lord ;
Whose well-bought hunger prompts the joyous taste,
And health attends them with the short repast.

While the full pail rewards the milk-maid's toil
The mother sees the morning caldron boil ;
To stir the pudding next demands their care,
To spread the table and the bowls prepare ;
To feed the children, as their portions cool,
And comb their heads, and send them off to school.

Yet may the simplest dish, some rules impart,
For nature scorns not all the aids of art.
E'en Hasty-Pudding, purest of all food,
May still be bad, indifferent, or good.
As sage experience the short process guides,
Or want of skill, or want of care presides.
Who'er would form it on the surest plan,
To rear the child and long sustain the man ;
To shield the morals while it mends the size,
And all the powers of ev'ry food supplies—
Attend the lessons that the Muse shall bring,
Suspend your spoons, and listen while I sing.

But since, O man ! thy life and health demand
Not food alone, but labour from thy hand,
First in the field, beneath the sun's strong rays,
Ask of thy mother, earth, the needful maize ;
She loves the race that courts her yielding soil,
And gives her bounties to the sons of toil.

When now the ox obedient to thy call,
Repay the loan that fill'd the winter stall,
Pursue his traces o'er the furrow'd plain,
And plant in measur'd hills the golden grain.
But when the tender germ begins to shoot,
And the green spire declares the sprouting root,
Then guard your nursing from each greedy foe,
Th' insidious worm, the all-devouring crow.
A little ashes, sprinkled round the spire,
Soon steep'd in rain, will bid the worm retire ;
The feather'd robber with his hungry maw
Swift flies the field before your man of straw,
A frightful image, such as school-boys bring
When met to burn the Pope, or hang the King.

Thrice in the season, thro' each verdant row
Wield the strong plough-share and the faithful hoe,
The faithful hoe, a double task that takes,
To till the summer corn, and roast the Winter cakes.

Slow spring the blade, while check'd by chilling rains,
Ere yet the sun the seat of Cancer gains ;
But when its fiercest fires emblaze the land,
Then start the juices, then the roots expand ;

Then, like a column of Corinthian mould,
The stalk struts upward, and the leaves unfold ;
The bushy branches all the ridges fill,
Entwine their arms, and kiss from hill to hill.
Here cease to vex them, all your cares are done ;
Leave your last labors to the parent sun ;
Beneath his genial smiles the well-dress'd field,
When Autumn calls, a plenteous crop shall yield.

Now the strong foliage bears the standards high,
And shoots the tall top-gallants to the sky ;
The suckling ears their silky fringes bend,
And pregnant grown, their swelling coats distend,
The loaded stalk, while still the burthen grows,
O'erhangs the space that runs between the rows ;
High as a hop-field waves the silent grove,
A safe retreat for little thefts of love,
When the pledged roasting-ears invite the maid,
To meet her swain beneath the new-form'd shade,
His gen'rous hand unloads the cumbrous hill,
And the green spoils her ready basket fill ;
Small compensation for the two-fold bliss,
The promis'd wedding and the present kiss.

Slight depredations these, but now the moon
Calls from his hollow tree the sly racoon ;
And while by night he bears his prize away,
The bolder squirrel labors thro' the day.
Both thieves alike, but provident of time,
A virtue, rare, that almost hides their crime.
And let them steal the little stores they can,
And fill their gran'ries from the toils of man ;
We've one advantage where they take no part,—
With all their wiles they ne'er have found the art
To boil the Hasty-Pudding ; here we shine
Superior far to tenants of the pine ;
This envied boon to man shall still belong,
Unshar'd by them in substance or in song.

At last the closing season browns the plain,
And ripe October gathers in the grain ;
Deep-loaded carts the spacious corn-house fill,
The sack distended marches to the mill ;
The lab'ring mill beneath the burden groans,
And show'rs the future pudding from the stones ;
Till the glad housewife greets the powder'd gold,
And the new crop exterminates the old.

CANTO III.

The days grow short ; but tho' the falling sun
To the glad swain proclaims his day's work done,
Night's pleasing shades his various tasks prolong,
And yield new subjects to my various song
For now, the corn-house fill'd, the harvest home,
Th' invited neighbors to the *Husking* come ;
A frolic scene, where work, and mirth, and play,
Unite their charms, to chase the hours away.

Where the huge heap lies centr'd in the hall,
The lamp suspended from the cheerful wall,
Brown corn-fed nymphs, and strong hard-handed beaux

Alternate rang'd, extend in circling rows,
Assume their seats, the solid mass attack ;
The dry husks rustle, and the corn-cobs crack ;
The song, the laugh, alternate notes resound,
And the sweet cider trips in silence round.

The laws of husking ev'ry wight can tell ;
And sure no laws he ever keeps so well ;
For each red ear a gen'ral kiss he gains,
With each smut ear she smuts the luckless swains.
But when to some sweet maid a prize is cast,
Red as her lips, and taper as her waist,
She walks around, and culls one favor'd beau,
Who leaps, the luscious tribute to bestow.
Various the sport, as are the wits and brains
Of well-pleas'd lasses and contending swains ;
Till the vast mound of corn is swept away,
And he that gets the last ear, wins the day.

Meanwhile the housewife urges all her care,
The well-earned feast to hasten and prepare.
The sifted meal already waits her hand,
The milk is strain'd, the bowls in order stand,
The fire flames high ; and, as a pool (that takes
The head-long stream that o'er the mill-dam
breaks)
Foams, roars and rages with incessant toils,
So the vex'd caldron rages, roars and boils.

First, with clean salt she seasons well the food,
Then stews the flour and thickens all the flood.
Long o'er the sim'ring fire she lets it stand ;
To stir it well demands a stronger hand ;
The husband takes his turn ; and round and round
The ladle flies ; at last the toil is crown'd ;
When to the board the thronging huskers pour,
And take their seats as at the corn before.

I leave them to their feast. There still belong
More copious matters to my faithful song.
For rules there are, tho' ne'er unfolded yet,
Nice rules and wise, how pudding should be ate

Some with molasses line the luscious treat,
And mix, like bards, the useful with the sweet.
A wholesome dish, and well deserving praise,
A great resource in those bleak wintry days,
When the chill'd earth lies buried deep in snow,
And raging Boreas drives the shiv'ring cow.

Blest cow ! thy praise shall still my notes employ,
Great source of health, the only source of joy ;
How oft thy teats these pious hands have press'd,
How oft thy bounties prove my only feast !
How oft I've fed thee with my fav'rite grain !
And roar'd like thee, to find thy children slain !

Ye swains, who know her various worth to prize,

Ah ! house her well from Winter's angry skies.
Potatoes, pumpkins, should her sadness cheer,
Corn from your crib, and mashies from your beer :
When Spring returns she'll well acquit the loan,
And nurse at once your infants and her own.

Milk, then, with pudding, I should always choose
To this in future I confine my Muse,
Till she in haste some future hints unfold,
Well for the young, nor useless to the old,
First in your bowl the milk abundant take,
Then drop with care along the silver lake
Your flakes of pudding ; these at first will hide
Their little bulk beneath the swelling tide ;
But when their growing mass no more can sink ;
When the soft island looms above the brink,
Then check your hand ; you've got the portion's due,
So taught our sires and what they taught is true.

There is a choice in spoons, Tho' small appear
The nice distinction, yet to me 'tis clear,
The deep-bowl'd Gallic spoon, contriv'd to scoop
In ample draughts the thin diluted soup,
Performs not well in those substantial things,
Whose mass adhesive to the metal clings ;
Where the strong labial muscles must embrace,
The gentle curve, and sweep the hollow space.
With ease to enter and discharge the freight,
A bowl less concave but still more dilate,
Becomes the pudding best. The shape, the size,
A secret rests unknown to vulgar eyes ;
Experienc'd feeders can alone impart
A rule so much above the lore of art.
Those tuneful lips, that thousand spoons have tried,

With just precision could the point decide,
Tho' not in song ; the muse but poorly shines
In cones and cubes, and geometric lines,
Yet the true form, as near as she can tell,
Is that small section of a goose egg-shell,
Which in two equal portions shall divide
The distance from the centre to the side.

Fear not to slaver ; 'tis no deadly sin,
Like the free Frenchmen, from your joyous chin
Suspend the ready napkin ; or, like me
Poise with one hand your bowl upon your knee ;
Just in the zenith your wise head project,
Your full spoon, rising in a line direct,
Bold as a bucket, heeds no drops that fall,
The wide-mouth'd bowl will surely catch them all.

COCKROACHES.—An English paper asserts
that thick skins peeled from cucumbers will
prove a certain destruction to cockroaches.
A Mr. Tewksbury, of Nottingham, occupy-
ing an old house which was literally over-
run with these pests, got rid of them en-
tirely and permanently by putting the cu-
cumber skins for three successive nights on
the floors of rooms most infested. The in-
sects devoured the skins with great eager-
ness, and since the third feeding, not one
has been seen about the house. This is not
a very plausible statement, but it will cost
nothing to make a trial during this month.
Will a few of our readers do so, and give
us the results either way ? We have none
of the animals about to experiment upon.—
Ed.

MORE ABOUT "SPARI."

This is, perhaps, to some a hackneyed theme, yet its importance to the farmer and gardener demands a constant recurrence to the subject. Only yesterday we saw a gang of boys in eager pursuit of a nest of fledglings, and we could but, instinctively almost, cry out, "boys, spare the birds." Boys of a larger growth, however, are more mischievous. Often in coming into the City we meet a gang of city loafers, with their dogs and guns, sallying forth to destroy the birds or frighten them from their habitations in the grove upon some quiet farm retreat. Did farmers know or appreciate the real worth to themselves of the birds thus driven away, they would expel the intruding hunters as they would so many horse thieves.

The value of birds to the farmer, the fruit grower, and the gardener is now almost universally admitted by all observing persons, for it is known that insects injurious to vegetation increase in proportion to the decrease of woodlands and the songsters inhabiting them.

Farmers are sometimes at the expense of hiring persons to search out and destroy the cut and wire-worms from their corn fields, the caterpillars from the orchard, borers from their peach trees and the various bugs and insects which feed upon their vines and bushes; but a few nests of birds will do the work cheaper and more effectually. Who has not observed the robins following the plow or hoe, and wondered at the vast number of worms and grubs which they bear to their little family in a neighboring tree. Their keen sense of hearing aids in detecting the grub gnawing at the roots of plants beneath the surface.

It is stated in Anderson's Recreations that "a cautious observer having found a nest of five young Jays, remarked that each of these birds, while yet very young, consumed at least fifteen full sized grubs of the *Anomala vitis* (a chafer injurious to the vine) in one day, and of course would require many more of a smaller size. Say that on an average they consumed twenty a-piece, these for the five make one hundred. Each of the parents consume, say fifty; so that the pair and family devour two hundred every day. This, in three months, amounts to twenty thousand in one season. But as the grub continues in that state four seasons, this single pair, with their family alone, without reckoning their descendants after the first year, would destroy eighty thousand grubs. Let us suppose that the half of these insects, that is, forty thousand, are females, and it is known that they usually lay about two hundred eggs each, it will appear that no less than eight millions have been destroyed or prevented from being hatched by the labors of a single family of Jays."

It was a short-sighted policy which led people, in many localities, at no very distant period, to enact laws calculated to nearly exterminate certain species of birds by awarding a bounty or premium for their destruction. It is now pretty well established that some of these same birds, notwithstanding an oc-

casional thieving visit to the corn-field or orchard, are very useful in exterminating vermin. Vincent Rollar, speaking of the crow, says: "it walks between the plants, and as soon as it sees one that has begun to wither, it approaches it with a joyful spring, digs with its sharp bill deep into the ground near the plant, and knows so well how to seize its prey, that it draws it forth and swallows it almost in the same moment; they do the same thing in the meadows which we sometimes see almost covered with them."

Buffon, in speaking of a certain species of grackle, similar to our crow-black bird, says: "The Isle of Bourbon, where these birds were unknown, was overrun with locusts which had been unfortunately introduced from Madagascar; their eggs having been imported in the soil with some plants which were brought from that island. The Governor-General and the Intendant deliberated seriously on the means of extirpating these noxious insects; and for this purpose, caused several pairs of Indian grackles to be introduced into the Island.

This plan promised to succeed; but unfortunately, some of the Colonists seeing the birds eagerly thrusting their bills into the earth of the newly sown fields, imagined that they were in quest of the grain, and reported that the birds, instead of proving beneficial, would be highly detrimental to the country. On the part of the birds it was argued that they raked the new-plowed grounds, not for the sake of the grain, but for the insects, and were therefore beneficial. They were, however, proscribed by the Council, and in the space of two hours after the sentence was passed against them, not a grackle was to be found in the island. This prompt execution was followed by a speedy repentance. The locusts gained the ascendancy, and the people who only viewed the present regretted the loss of the grackles. Shortly afterwards a few pairs were again introduced, and their preservation and breeding made a State affair; the laws held out protection to them, and the physicians, on their part, declared their flesh to be unwholesome. The grackles according multiplied, and the locusts were destroyed."

The whippoorwill and nighthawk destroy vast numbers of nocturnal insects, including the codling moth, an especial enemy of the fruit grower. Both of these birds are often heard after nightfall in the vicinity of orchards, where they seize not only upon the millers and larger insects, but by means of wide mouths which they keep open when in quest of food, they collect many small insects, such as gnats, by constantly darting through swarms of them.

The nighthawk often darts from a distance upon large insects, making in its swoop a noise not unlike that produced by the twang of a viol string. Nutting states that one of these birds, on dissection, was found to contain 200 insects in its crop, consisting mostly of small beetles.

We are fully persuaded that no enlightened farmer, who is convinced of even a tithe of the benefit he derives from the friendly

visits of these cheerful laborers, will permit them to be destroyed on his premises; but rather invite them by means of hedges, thick shrubs and low trees to make their habitations near him, calling him from his morning slumbers by a flood of song poured in at the open casement, and ever ready with their inspiring notes to cheer him in his daily toil.—[Ed.]

A YANKEE'S VIEWS ON BARN-BUILDING.

Those who build now are pretty generally agreed upon one point; that it is more economical to erect one building for the various farm purposes, rather than the great number which are seen so common about old establishments.

Let us look at a few figures, which *won't lie*. A building ten feet square contains one thousand cubic feet. Not to speak of the roof, the outside presents a surface to the weather of four hundred feet. We have, then, ten feet inside to four feet outside.

Take another example. A building twenty feet square contains eight thousand cubic feet; the outside measures one thousand six hundred feet. Here we have five feet inside to one foot outside. We will now take a building forty feet square. The inside to the outside is as *ten to one*!

I am aware that the larger structure requires a heavier frame, that is all. The boards and shingles are the same in either case. I know, too, that the wide roof is worn by rain. The objection, however, is not of great weight.

I hold, Mr. Editor, that one part of a large barn accommodates another part. It is a saving of steps to have your horse near the vehicle in which you wish to attach him. Why go several rods to a ten-footer, and open another set of doors in the wind to "get out the chaise?" What comfort, in returning from market or town-meeting on a stormy day, and driving into a snug floor-way, to untackle and put away horse and wagon with ease and expedition. There is no difficulty in dispensing with the carriage-house; the barn is the place for all the vehicles, the cellar takes in all the carts and coarse wagons—a room at the side of the drive-way the lighter vehicles.

Then what need is there for a separate building for tools? what place so central as an ample room by the side of the floor-way? You start from the barn, usually, to go to different parts of the farm, and you return thither when the work is done.

I have thought, Mr. Editor, that portable bins for corn might be put up in this large tool-room. In the busy seasons of the year, corn-bins are apt to get pretty low, so they would not be in the way much when the tools were most used. I should prefer that the bins be where they could be seen too often. One might stand a better chance, then, of keeping the rats from destroying the corn. I have little faith in these out-of-the-way places to keep corn; it is sure to waste and injure.—[New England Farmer.]

If a man could have his wishes, he would double his troubles.

CISTERN'S AND CISTERN BUILDING.

In a previous number we have spoken of pure water as essential to health. We regard rain water as pure, fit for use. How to get it and keep it is the question now before us. To do this, cisterns must be made in the ground. The size of cisterns may depend upon the amount of water wanted. They may vary from five to twenty feet in diameter, and from ten to twenty-five in depth. A deep cistern will keep the water cooler, and probably better. From sixteen to twenty feet is a good depth. We are of the opinion that excellent water can always be kept in cisterns of that depth. From six to nine feet is a good width for ordinary family purposes. They should be dug round, and with the utmost regularity, be perpendicular, the bottom smooth, and a little hollowed in the middle, to facilitate the process of cleansing, and give greater permanency to the coat of cement. A permanent clay soil is generally solid enough when well dug, and the sides well smoothed and cemented, to make a lasting cistern; but it is always best to brick over the bottom and sides. This gives the most reliable permanency if the bricks are properly laid. It prevents any water pressure from bursting in, and makes a solid basis for the cement. The top should be arched over with brick, leaving a hole in the middle about two and a half feet in width, and arched sufficiently to sustain any pressure that may ever be expected to be put upon it. When it is thus dug and arched, or bricked, it is ready for the cement, which should be carefully put on at three coatings. Good hydraulic cement, well put on, will make a permanent water-tight lining for the cistern, which is cheap, and not easily displaced.

The next important matter is the filter. Pure water cannot well be obtained in all seasons of the year without a filter. There are many modes of filtering cistern water. One is to dig a small cistern six or eight feet deep, near the main one, and fit a filter in the bottom of this, having first connected it with the main cistern by a lead pipe. The orifice of the passage to the main cistern is first protected by bricks or stones. These are covered with a strong coarse woolen cloth. Upon this is placed a layer of powdered charcoal; on this a layer of gravel; another cloth similar to the first; then charcoal and gravel again. The more of these layers the more perfect the filter. They must be so placed that all the water shall pass through them. The filter in all cisterns is made in the same way.

Another arrangement is to make two cisterns of equal depth, one much larger than the other, and connect them at the bottom with a lead pipe. Lay up a brick arch around the orifice of the passage in the large cistern, about two feet high, and make the filter in this. Let the water from the roof into this cistern. The main body of the water being in the large cistern, it will filter slowly, and the water will have time to settle all it will, before going through the filter. There is probably no better plan for good water than this. The only objection to this

plan, is that if the filter needs repairing or replenishing, the water must all be taken out to do it.

Still another plan, is to make a large and small cistern, the large one half the depth of the small one. Make the filter in the large one as in the last named plan. In this the water filters quicker, without time to settle; but the filter can be repaired without the loss of the water in the small one;

Some divide the filtering cistern with a brick wall, and place a filter in this and another at the aperture as above, making two filters. This doubtless will give excellent water. Whatever plan is adopted, care should be taken to do it well. Let all the work be done well, and of good material, and there can be no doubt of securing good water.—[Valley Farmer.

OUR WATERLOO CORRESPONDENCE.

Fish Manures—Turnips—Beets—Jethro Tull—Wheat growing better in the "Genesee Country"—Condition of the Crops—City Manures.

To the Editor of the American Agriculturist:

Your last Agriculturist was the best of the series. Farming near the sea coast with menhaden fish, swamp muck, and sometimes sea and rock weed for the compost heap, brings to mind the scenes of my boyhood. But I would ask, do not these oily fish give that carbon, to say nothing of phosphate of lime to the soil, that is contained in carbonaceous vegetable matter; or rather, is it not potash, instead of carbon, that a soil needs when long treated with fish alone as a manure amendment? A Long Island farmer who once came to Montezuma for a boat load of wood ashes, told me that such ashes "were almost indispensable to a fish-treated soil."

The agricultural press is constantly advocating turnip culture to our farmers, just as though we had the "boiled-turnip sun" and moist climate of England; hence I have felt it for some time on my mind, as the Quakers say, to give my experience in the premises. On the island of Rhode Island, where the moisture is aided, and the sun's rays are obstructed by sea fogs, spring turnips do well; but on the calcareous soil of Western New York, it is a bootless task to attempt to grow turnips, at least in the late summer and fall months, except always on new mucky soils. I have tried, year after year, to grow a few English turnips, without succeeding, until the last very wet season; their growth was then so rapid, that the besetting worms could not prevent a normal growth. I have tried as an antidote for the insects, ashes, sulphur, salt, &c., but they grow so slow in our warm, dry August and September, that the root becomes a prey to worms. On the same rich soil, beets, carrots and parsnips, grow in great luxuriance. I have Wurtzel beets, transplanted first of July, now nearly two inches in diameter; by November, they will attain a stove-pipe size. Many of the early planted now stand eight inches out of the ground. Two or

* It was Horace Greeley who said, "the English sun looked like a boiled turnip."

three of those beets, cut up in still slop, or with half a pint of Indian meal, is a good mess for a village cow in the winter. Rutabagas will grow on a lighter soil than beets, but I have had even these lose their leaves and die on a sand loam in a July drought, which was the very life of beets, corn and Lima beans. The Treasurer of our Agricultural Society, a large farmer, says he should hardly know how to winter his milch cows without Wurtzel beets. They never fail to leave a heavy soil loose. While the same soil planted to onions is hard and dry with repeated hoeings, it is loose and friable with beets after the first thinning and hoeing, and they require less after culture than corn, and no more than potatoes; but while they perfect large roots in the same soil, potatoes make only large stalks and small tubers.

Jethro Tull, despite his bald premature chemistry, did the State some service. What a pity he could not have seen our best western prairie soils, where Nature has made those fine and perfectly comminuted mineral deposits for which he was so great a stickler. Methinks he would have been cheated of all his physical pains, when he beheld the consummation of his theory full before him in a prairie soil.

Having lately returned from a trip West, I have tried to form with soil ingredients here, the mechanical counterpart of a specimen from a very productive prairie near Fond-du-Lac, Wisconsin. While our fine clay, if mixed with sand to counteract its adhesiveness, forms, after being wet and dried, only a less adhesive and more porous conglomerate, the prairie specimen is always fine and pulverulent, wet or dry, even with less mold or vegetable remains in its composition, than my mixture contains. Hence I have so far gone back to Tull's theory as to believe that our heavy soils are as much benefitted by the mechanical office of manures in making the soil mellow and absorptive, as for the chemical ingredients they contribute to it. The "scarification" of the soil by hoeing, &c., is only a continuation and perfection of the mechanical amendment, so necessary to both capillary attraction and atmospheric absorption.

I am glad to say that the wheat midge, *C. Tritici*, like the destructor, is on the decline in our region. One great cause is the starving out our farmers have given this insect by planting an earlier variety of wheat, and by plowing deeply the wheat stubble, so as to bury the larvæ deep in the soil. One of our best farmers, John Johnson, thinks he would have entirely distanced the fly this season, had it not been for the very late and wet fall which retarded his sowing more than two weeks. As it is, his great under-drained fields of Soule's wheat suffered from the midge, but the inferior Mediterranean wheat generally escaped. The crop is fair, and it has been well secured; all our summer crops will be above the medium; corn never grew faster than during the late extra hot weather.

When I learn from your paper the great chemical wants of your sea-coast soils, and the magic effect of guano, tafeu, &c., I can

but feel that the great daily waste of organic matter going on in our Atlantic cities, to the injury of the public health, is one of those violations of Nature's laws which she wants of the neighboring hungry soil has begun to suggest the means of averting. S. W. WATERLOO, August 4, 1856.

MORE ABOUT STRAWBERRY GROWING.

A BOY'S DIRECTION TO BOYS AND GIRLS.

[We have among our subscribers a boy 13 years old who is quite an amateur as well as a practical grower of good strawberries. We invited him to write out some plain directions for Boys and Girls who have had little or no experience, and we give below what he has furnished, with the remark, that most of what is said will be found highly useful to grown up boys and girls.]—Ed.

To the Editor of the American Agriculturist:

In answer to your request I will do as well as I can, but I shall have to get some help of my father, who is very fond of raising fine strawberries, and who has taught me to do the same.

All the boys are fond of hunting wild strawberries, and how many of them will travel miles and miles, and spend nearly a whole day to get a basket full of the small, wild kinds, when no more time and labor would be required to raise a bushel of fine large berries. I am sure all the boys, and girls too, would raise them at home if they knew how easy a matter it is, and if they knew how to do it. I will try and tell them all I can about it.

Next month, that is, September, is a very good time to set out plants, which will bear quite a quantity of berries next Summer, and many more the Summer after. The first thing is to prepare the ground, and much I find depends upon this—but it is a very simple thing after all. Put on plenty of good stable manure, if well rotted so much the better. Either horse or cow droppings, or in fact any kind of manure will do. Put it on two or three inches deep, and dig it in. Spade the ground deeply, at least fifteen inches, if two feet so much the better. A patch of ground upon which early potatoes grew will be nice—or any other mellow ground.

Now make your bed three feet wide, and put, if you can get it, a board on each side to stand and walk on—but no matter about this, it only makes the job so much nicer and keeps the fruit that falls over in the path clean, and also is likely to prevent it from being trod on in picking.

Your bed being now all ready and settled, the next thing is to select and set the plants. Much of the success will depend upon this. And first as to the plants. There are many valuable varieties now in cultivation, and also many worthless ones. Hovey's seedling is a good kind, so is MacAvoy's superior and Longworth's prolific. I like the last the best. It is a perfect blossom, and does not require any other kind with it. But if you cannot get this, take one of the others, and then you must put with them a few of some other kind, such as the Early Scarlet or Iowa—one to every ten will do.

If you can get the plants near home, go for them yourself, and take them up carefully. Select vigorous young plants, put them into a basket and cover the roots immediately with earth to keep the small fibers from getting dry. This is very important to your success. Plant them in the evening with a garden trowel, or some other implement that will open the earth well. Set them in rows across the bed, making the rows eighteen inches apart, and putting the plants in the row about one foot apart. Press the earth firmly about the roots and then water each plant well. Now cut some grass and scatter over the plants; this will shade them from the sun and keep the ground moist. If these directions are carefully followed the plants will not know that they have been removed, but will grow on almost immediately.

You may plant any time from this till the first of November, but the sooner the better. After the plants have begun to grow well—say in about ten days—you may take off the hay and keep the ground raked well, and let no weeds grow. If any runners should appear pinch them off. This will make the plants strong. If you will occasionally apply some liquid manure from the barn yard it will help the plants.

Nothing more need be done till the first of December; then throw over each plant a small shovel full of fine, well-rotted manure or rotten leaves, which will protect them in the Winter from being frozen out, and will also enrich the ground.

Nothing will be required in the Spring but to keep the ground clean of weeds. When the plants come into bloom cut some grass and cover all the ground between the plants. This will keep the fruit clean and the soil moist. If any runners appear before the fruit is ripe, pinch them off. They will exhaust the plants and take from the fruit. When the berries begin to ripen, if the season is dry, take, in the evening, some water from the well and water the plants with a watering pot. Father thinks rain water spoils the flavor of the fruit, but that well water does not.

After the plants have done bearing, keep beds clear from weeds and cut off the runners once a week. This will take but a few minutes. The plants will then become fine large ones, capable of bearing the next season a pint of fruit each—and this is also the only way to keep your bed from being full of weeds. If you want more plants to extend your bed, which you will, I am sure, let some runners take root and remove the plants as soon as they are large enough. On the approach of Winter, again spread over the bed about one or two inches of good fine manure to protect the plants and also to enrich them. Managed in this way a bed will last four or five years, and delight you with its fine, large, red, ripe sweet strawberries. I hope my young friends will try these directions, and see if I am not right. I think a great deal of my strawberry beds, and I should like to have all others enjoy such berries. I hope, Mr. Editor, that you will keep on writing such articles as the one in

the August Agriculturist about the "Five Thousand Strawberry Beds."

Your young friend,

GEORGE.

FLOWERING BULBS.

This month the time to plant—Description of the most common—Snow-Drops—Crown-Imperials—Lilies, Candidum or White, Tiger, &c.—Crocus—Tulips—Hyacinths—Practical directions for culture of these and other bulbs, &c.

Bulbous plants are those which yield a scaly bud either below or above the ground. These buds or bulbs are formed of overlapping scales which in some cases are arranged like the leaves of a flower, and in others, as in the onion for example, the scales or layers pass entirely around the bulb, save a small opening at the top. The scales are all connected at the base of the bulb, from which point roots are given out to produce new plants. Some of this class of plants produce the bulbs under the ground, which are called root-bulbs—the tulip, crocus and onion for example—while others furnish the bulb upon the stalk, or axils of the leaves above ground, such as the tiger lily, top onions, &c. The latter class of bulbs are nourished by the parent plant until they attain maturity, when they fall to the ground, and send forth roots to produce new plants.

Solid bulbs like the potato and dahlia, which are devoid of the laminated scales or layers, are called *tubers*.

Several varieties of bulbous plants produce rich, showy, fragrant flowers, many of which come into bloom very early in the spring—some of them while the snow banks still linger by the hill-sides and hedges. This circumstance, together with the ease of cultivation, renders them worthy of a place in every garden or flower-plot, however small or humble.

This being the season for setting many of the bulbs lifted from the soil during June and July, we give below a descriptive list of some of the most desirable, with directions for planting and cultivating. We shall only speak of those hardy varieties which require planting in the autumn, purposing to extend our list in the spring to those adapted to that season.

Some varieties of bulbs do not keep well out of ground, and for the most part, these do not require lifting often. After they have been taken up in the spring or summer, it is well to leave them out for a few days lightly covered with dry earth, when they may be cleaned and packed away in drawers, or, what is better, put in boxes of dry sand.

Bulbs may be grown on nearly all soils, excepting those very wet, but they flourish best on a rather light sandy loam, if it is capable of retaining moisture. The amateur, who desires flowers of the richest colors, and faultless in shape and size, may make a soil for his choice bulbs by excavating the earth to the depth of say two feet, of the size of the desired bed, and stir up the soil even below this; after which, he may fill it with a mixture of say one-eighth of old rot-

ten yard or cow manure, the same amount of leaf mold, one-fourth well decayed muck, and a like quantity each of river or sea sand, and fresh earth from the road-side or untilled land. This compost should be mixed at least two weeks before use, and the bed made about ten days previous to planting. For mode of putting in the bulbs, we refer to the special descriptions of varieties below, premising that the directions are for planting in a common garden soil, but when practicable, we advise preparing a bed as above. We begin with those requiring the earliest planting, and follow in regular course.

SNOW DROP.

This is the earliest flower of spring, and derives its name from the circumstance of its often appearing in full bloom while snow is still upon the ground, together with the pearly white appearance of its petals. It is sometimes called snow flake. The bulbs are quite small, and may be planted during August and September, either singly or in clumps of from six to twelve; cover with 1½ or 2 inches of soil. They are only about six inches high when in bloom, which is during March and April in this latitude. Every third year is often enough to lift them, which should be done about the first of June.

CROWN IMPERIAL.

There are many varieties of this plant, nearly all of which are natives of Persia. They are hardy and very showy when in full bloom during April and May. The stem shoots up from two to three, and in some situations even four feet, and is capped by a tuft of green glossy foliage, beneath which hangs the crown of beautiful bell-shaped flowers varying on different plants from bright yellow to scarlet, red and striped. The bulbs are large, fleshy, and somewhat solid, and require to be kept wrapped in paper or packed in sand while out of the ground, but they only require moving every fourth or fifth year. Plant in August and September, covering with three or four inches of earth. Some object to this bulb on account of its rank odor, but the luxuriant growth and fine hues of its flowers at a season when very few plants are in bloom are such as to recommend its culture.

LILIES.

The Lily tribe, which is very numerous, is an interesting class of plants, many of which are so common, and so easy of cultivation as to require little instruction relative to treatment. Well decomposed muck, mixed freely with scrapings of the barn-yard, is a good compost. If a covering of straw from the stable, mixed with coarse manure, be given them in the Fall they will start with more vigor. Plant from August to October, covering the bulbs from three to five inches, according as they are weak or strong-growing varieties.

The *Lilium candidum*, (common white lily of the garden,) has long been esteemed as an emblem of whiteness and purity, and should not fail to have a place in every collection. It blooms in July upon the extremities of the stalks which are from three to four feet high, and need supporting by stakes.

It requires transplanting but seldom, which should be done in August or September.

The *Lilium tigrinum*, or Tiger lily, is found in almost every flower garden, and is very suitable for either border or shrubbery. It grows from 4 to 6 feet high and blooms in August. The flower stalks should be supported to prevent being broken by severe storms. It is very hardy and may be moved at almost any time, Fall or Spring, but better during September and October. Tiger lilies may be raised in large quantities from the small bulbs found growing upon the axils of the leaves, a peculiarity which distinguishes this variety from others of the same genus.

The *Longiflorum* or long flowered lily is a beautiful and fragrant variety with pure white petals which open in July.

CROCUS.

There are some fifty varieties of this hardy plant which, though humble, are nevertheless beautiful. They are natives of Holland and Switzerland. They bloom here early in April, and are planted from September to November, in rows a few inches from the border, or in beds of distinct colors, the bulbs being set four inches apart, and one to two inches deep. They may remain several years without moving. The great variety of hues, extreme hardiness, and early season of flowering, render them quite worthy of cultivation.

TULIP.

This bulb has attained a renown excelled by no other plant, having been extensively cultivated for about 300 years; and so great was the mania, that at one time—about the years 1635 and 1636—the Dutch people of all classes engaged in the Tulip trade: single bulbs sold for \$1,000 to \$2,000, and, according to Dodsley, even as high as \$5,000. T. Bridgeman says that in some of the gardens of Holland 1,100 varieties are cultivated by name. It is a native of the Levant, and from the gorgeous colors and endless combination of tints penciled on its cup, has received the appellations of "King of Flowers," "Reigning Beauty of the Garden," &c.

We shall not attempt to describe the endless varieties, some of which are dwarfish in their habits while others are from two to three feet in height, some blooming in the early part of May, and others not till the end of that month. Plant during October or early in November in groups along borders, or in beds six to eight inches apart each way. Clumps of three to six bulbs of different colors have a fine appearance along a border, or a circular bed may be made by spading deep and mixing in sand and muck, after which set the tallest growing plants in the centre and form consecutive circles with the dwarf varieties for the outer border, interspersing all the different hues. Let such a bed have a gradual inclination from the centre to the outer edge, and cover the bulbs with three to four inches of earth, placing a little dry sand around each. The names of each variety should be registered in a book, so that no unsightly tallies need be seen in the bed, which should be smoothly raked off and kept free from weeds. Take

up every third year, about four weeks after blooming.

HYACINTH.

The traffic in this bulb has not fallen far below that of the Tulip. Bridgeman states that 1,300 varieties by name have been cultivated in Holland, and Mr. Dutens says in his travels, that he has known 10,000 florins (\$4,000) refused for a single Hyacinth. It is valued for the great variety of its hues, being of almost every shade of color, from pure white to pink, red, crimson, purple, blue and yellow; it also has a delightful perfume. Hyacinths are very hardy and easily cultivated, commencing to bloom about the middle of April, and if shaded from the mid-day sun, will continue in flower for a month. The stalks are about one foot high, and covered with florets or small bells of every hue, with red, blue or purple eyes, giving the bed a very beautiful appearance. Plant firm, sound bulbs in October and November in beds similar to those for the tulip. Set them eight inches apart and cover three or four inches, having previously put a little fine sand about the bulb. The flowers will be more perfect and of an improved size if the beds are covered during Winter with coarse manure or straw. The bulbs can be taken up in about one month after they have completed their blooming season, or they may remain for two or three years.

A good bed of bulbs is formed by preparing the ground as described for tulips, and planting all the above-named varieties in the same bed at one time, so arranging them that a clump of the tallest kind shall be in the centre and the others planted in circular rows, the first being about one foot from the centre, the second one foot from the first, and so on, arranging the colors to suit the fancy. These will form a fine succession of blooming plants from the latter end of March to June. By erecting an awning over the bed when beginning to bloom and shading from the mid-day sun, they may be kept in flower some days longer. Previous to their decay the space between the rows may be sown with annuals, which by the time the foliage of the bulbs has withered and the bulbs themselves been lifted, will serve to cover what would otherwise be naked ground, (always unseemly in a flower garden) and yield during the latter part of Summer and Autumn a profusion of other flowers.

A good average time for planting will be about the middle of September, which is the season we intend to plant a new bed on this plan.—[Ed.]

PRESERVING BUTTER.—"It is said" that butter will keep for a long time, if each pound be treated with one ounce of the following composition recommended by Dr. Allen, viz.: Salt 2 parts; saltpetre 1 part; sugar 2 parts.

A root, says the Arab proverb, may be known by six things; anger without cause, speech without profit, change without motive, iniquity without object, putting trust in a stranger, and not knowing his friends from his foes.

GRAPE GROWING.

IMPORTANT ENQUIRIES, AND A SUGGESTION.

In the usual method of constructing graperies, it is customary to set the vines in the ground or border just outside the building, and lead them in through a hole in the foundation wall below the surface. Mr. Tarbox, of Brooklyn, Conn., enquires whether it would answer to set the plants a distance of 10 to 15 feet from the building, leading them up 20 to 25 feet in the open air before entering the building, or allowing side branches to grow.

First—Will the main stem of the imported grape be likely to suffer during winter, if left unprotected, provided the top or bearing branches are under glass cover?

Second—If protection is necessary, will a covering of straw closely bound on be sufficient?

Third—Will the head branches bear equally as well at the distance of 30 to 40 feet from the root as nearer? The wild native grapes are said to produce their best fruit at the tops of the supporting trees, say 40 to 80 feet from the root of the vine. Will the same be the case with the exotic or foreign grapes?

A Suggestion.—If the naked stem of the foreign grape vine will withstand the frost when exposed, or with slight protection with straw, then the upper rooms, attics or garrets of any buildings, whether in country or city, may be converted into convenient graperies at little expense. Glass roofs can now be put on almost, if not quite as cheaply as those of tin. With this and a part of the gable ends also glass covered, the grape vines may be carried up on the outside of the building, and led through it at the base of the garret, where side shoots may be trained as in any ordinary graperie. The warm air ordinarily ascending from the lower rooms would furnish sufficient artificial heat during most of the year. Any additional heat required for a few of the coldest days of winter, or for forcing, could be supplied by hot air registers from below. For an ordinary cold graperie, no heating apparatus would be required. We will not at this time speak particularly of the attractiveness and beauty of a house, store, or work-shop thus constructed, nor of the actual profit (for we believe profit there would be), until we get the opinion of some experienced grape cultivators in answer to the questions above.—[Eb.]

ALEXANDER GUNN was discharged from the Custom House at Edinburgh for a malpractice. The entry in the books stands thus: *A. Gunn was discharged for making a false report!*

If you never touch a drop of any preparation containing alcohol, you will most assuredly never die in the gutter.

POVERTY wants some, luxury many, and avarice all things.

THE Bible is our best directory in faith and practice.

Good words cost nothing, but are worth much.

A FIRST RATE SUET PUDDING.

Having frequent occasion to take a noon "lunch" at the Dining Rooms of Savery's Temperance Hotel in this City, we have been particularly pleased with the "Suet Pudding" there served up, and at our request Mr. Savery kindly furnished the recipe for the readers of the American Agriculturist. It is made as follows:

Blend well together:

- ½ lb. white Sugar, pulverized,
- ½ lb. Beef Suet, chopped fine,
- 1 quart of Milk,
- 2 teaspoonfuls Cream of Tartar,
- 1 teaspoonful cooking Soda,
- 6 Eggs, well beaten.

When the above are thoroughly mixed, stir in 2½ lbs. of Flour, and flavor with extract of Lemon. Bake in cups for about twenty minutes, in an oven hot enough for baking biscuits. The above amounts are used for two dozen dessert cakes.

N. B.—One-half pound of Butter may be used instead of the ½ lb. of Suet.

PUDDING SAUCE.—With the above, as well as other puddings, two kinds of sauce are used. *Hard Sauce*—Butter beat up with pulverized Sugar. *Lemon Sauce*.—½ lb. Butter; ½ lb. Sugar; 1 Lemon, cut fine; 1 pint of Water. The whole boiled, thickened with a little Flour, and a little Nutmeg grated in.

Others may have better recipes than the above—if so please send them on.—[Eb.]

MERINO SHEEP SPECULATION.—A subscriber inquires where he can find the best account of the "Merino Sheep Speculation," at the time they were introduced by Gen. Humphreys, some fifty years ago. Can any one of our readers answer the question?

AGRICULTURAL BOOKS AND LIBRARIES.—We direct especial attention to Saxton & Co.'s plan for furnishing Agricultural books, in the advertising columns.

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

—The official announcement appears in our advertising columns. The full information therein imparted saves us the necessity of further reference to it.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD LANDS.—We have not thought it necessary to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of this Company, as it is so full and complete that it speaks for itself. It will command the attention of all who are looking to the West with reference to a change of residence. The location of these lands upon one of the finest railroads in the world, renders them worthy of special notice. We have just received a beautiful pamphlet of 64 pages, containing maps of the State of Illinois and of the Central Railroad Lands, and much information respecting the country. This is issued by the Company, to be sent as a full reply to those asking information. We advise all interested to send to John Wilson, Esq., at Chicago, Illinois, and get one of these pamphlets, which are furnished gratis, we believe, to all applicants.

The bravest heart oft contains the most humility.

N. Y. STATE AND AMERICAN INSTITUTE.—AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.—The official announcements of both of these Exhibitions, with particulars as to arrangements, &c., appear in the Advertising pages of this number. We have not room for further notice.

THE CONNECTICUT STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Extensive preparations are being made to get up an Exhibition—to be held at New Haven, October 7th to 10 inclusive—on a scale quite surpassing the last two exhibitions of this Society. This is saying a good deal, as both of the former shows were excellent, but "forward march" is the watchword of the commanders, colonels, captains and subalterns of this enterprising Yankee Society. "Fall into the ranks," brother farmers of Connecticut, "drop the plow in the furrow" for a day or two, and go up to the Annual Parade at New Haven.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.—To C. L. Flint, Esq., Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, and to Henry A. Dyer, Esq., Secretary of the Connecticut State Agricultural Society, we are indebted for copies of the Reports of the Transactions of their respective Societies during 1855. These gentlemen, we may remark, are doing most efficient service in the cause of agricultural improvement, and we are glad to learn from various sources that their labors are appreciated by those for whom they labor. The reports before us are valuable contributions to the agricultural literature not only of these two States, but of the whole country.

Mr. G. Sprague, Secretary of the Ohio Agricultural Society, has kindly favored us with a programme and a beautiful picture of the show grounds for their Exhibition to be held at Cleveland, September 23d to 26th. We are sure the Exhibition is to be a magnificent one, and, if at all practical, we shall witness with our own eyes what the banner farming State can do on such an occasion.

TO CORRESPONDENTS AND CONTRIBUTORS.—All articles designed for insertion, or questions requiring reply, must reach us by the 15th of the preceding month to be sure of attention, as after that date we are wholly occupied with the leading articles for the season. Quite a number of letters, &c., designed for this number, came to hand after the inside pages were printed, and are crowded out for want of room.

NO IRREGULARITY IN MAILING.

The Agriculturist is invariably mailed one day before the beginning of the month. If the paper is late in reaching subscribers, the fault is with the mails, not with us. Careful MEN, and not boys, are employed to write wrappers, so that there shall be no mistakes.

ERRATA.—On page 279 of the inside sheet, we see the pressman has spoiled the heading "More about Sparing the Birds." He promises to be more careful next time and he must be. These "Steam Presses" are very convenient, but they sometimes "play the mischief" with the types.

THE "ADS."—AN APOLOGY.—Our advertising friends have crowded us into narrower quarters than we can put up with. We must have twenty or twenty-one pages of reading matter usually, which will leave but three or four pages for advertisements. If these continue to come in so freely and unsolicited, we shall be compelled to give more pages in the paper. We should have added eight more pages to this number, could we have got paper enough made in season.

We desire to repeat that we assume no responsibility for any advertisement. The space is thrown open to the public at so much per line, and all pay alike. Still we reserve the right to reject any advertisement not desired, and we will not knowingly admit anything of a humbug character, or of an immoral tendency.—[Ed.]

Advertisements.

TERMS—(invariably cash before insertion):
Ten cents per line (of ten words) for each insertion.
No advertisement taken at less than one dollar.
By the column or half column, \$12 per column for the first insertion, and \$10 for each subsequent insertion.
Business Notices 20 cents a line.

C. M. SAXTON & CO'S AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES, FOR VILLAGES, TOWNS, AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

PUBLISHED AT 140 FULTON-STREET, NEW-YORK.
Carefully selected with reference to the wants of the Farmer, and arranged so as to afford the needed information in each department.

For the purpose of furnishing to all who are interested in the cultivation of the soil, the readiest access to WORKS IN EVERY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, at a trifling cost to each individual, it is proposed to establish an AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY in every town or school district in each State, on the following plan:—

The best, most reliable and prominent works on Agriculture and kindred subjects are selected and judiciously arranged in Libraries costing

FROM TEN TO ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH.

In each town or district those persons desiring a Library will unite under a few simple regulations, or if preferred, adopt a more formal Constitution, choose a Librarian, and fix the amount to be contributed by each member, at from one to five dollars, and purchase such a Library as their means will afford.

No measure is believed, could conduce more to the improvement of the Farmer and his Farm, than the location of such a Library in his neighborhood. By making Agriculture a more intellectual pursuit, we shall at once increase its profits and lessen its labor, while we shall render it more attractive to the sons of the Farmer, who are driven by its hard and ill paid toil to the less healthful employment of the crowded cities.

Catalogues furnished upon application to

C. M. SAXTON & CO.,
Agricultural Book Publishers,
No. 140 Fulton-street, New-York.

116-n100

AMERICAN INSTITUTE CATTLE SHOW, EMBRACING AN EXHIBITION OF CATTLE of all breeds, HORSES, SHEEP, SWINE and POULTRY, will be held at Hamilton Square, in the CITY OF NEW-YORK, on

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND THURSDAY,
The 14th, 15th, and 16th days of October.

Owners and Breeders of Stock, from all parts of the United States, are invited to bring their STOCK to the Exhibition.
All Animals must be on the ground by 10 o'clock A. M., on TUESDAY, the 14th.

The Twenty-eighth Annual Fair of the American Institute will be held at the Crystal Palace, commencing on THURSDAY, the 22d of September, and will positively close on SATURDAY, the 25th of October.

Circulars, with Premium Lists, can be had at the Office of the American Institute, No. 351 Broadway. 116-117n103

PARSONS & CO., Flushing, near New-York, offer for sale their large assortment of APPLES, standard and dwarf PEAR, CHERRIES, PEACHES, PLUMS and other Fruits.

To their stock of well-grown PLUMS, they would call especial attention.

They also offer a large assortment of the well-known and also the more rare Deciduous and Evergreen Trees and Shrubs.

They also grow for massing, and can offer, at reduced rates by the quantity, the different varieties of Maples, Elms, Lindens, and other Deciduous Trees, with many sorts of Shrubs.

They would also call attention to their Evergreens, which are unusually finely rooted and symmetrically formed. Of these they can supply Norway Spruce, at prices ranging according to size and form, from \$10 to \$60 per hundred.

Cedars, Deciduous, Siberian Arbor Vite, White Pine, Pines, Benthamiana, and others, can also be supplied for planting in masses, at moderate rates.

Their stock of ROSES is always large, and can be furnished by the quantity at greatly reduced rates.

Their Foreign Grapes are propagated from bearing vines. Their Exotic Department includes the desirable and rare sorts, and the Plants are well grown and thrifty.

Catalogues furnished on application. 105-116

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

OFFICE No. 160 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of the UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY will be held at Pownall (Philadelphia), on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Premiums from \$25 to \$200, amounting in the aggregate to \$14,000, will be offered for the various classes of Domestic Animals, Fruits, American Wines, Vegetables, Grains, and Agricultural Implements and Machinery.

A Local Committee at Philadelphia, representing the various branches of industry, has already been appointed to co-operate with the officers of the Society in perfecting arrangements for the Exhibition. Fifteen Thousand Dollars have been guaranteed to meet expenses. This material aid, coupled with the excellence of the selected location, and the large amount of premiums offered, induces the expectation that the Exhibition of 1856 will be superior to any of its predecessors.

A GRAND AGRICULTURAL BANQUET.

In which ladies as well as gentlemen will participate, will take place on Friday afternoon, October 10, when distinguished speakers will address the assemblage.

Favorable arrangements with the various railroads for the transportation of stock and other articles are in progress, the terms of which will be given on application to the office.

The List of Entries, the Awards of Premiums, and the Proceedings, will be published in the Journal of the Society for 1856.

The Premium List, with the Regulations and Programme of the Exhibition, will be furnished on application to Mr. John McGowan, Assistant Secretary of the United States Agricultural Society, 160 Chestnut-street, (Rooms of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society,) or by addressing the Secretary at Boston.

MARSHALL P. WILDER, President.
WILLIAM S. KING, Secretary. 116-117n90
September 1, 1856.

FAIR OF N. Y. STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

AT WATERTOWN, Sept. 30, and Oct. 1, 2, and 3.

THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE New-York State Agricultural Society will be held at Watertown, Jefferson County, September 30, and October 1, 2, and 3.

The Rome and Watertown, and Potsdam Railroads, will carry stock and articles free, and passengers at half fares. The Lake Ontario Steamboat Company will carry stock, and articles and passengers at half fares. The Hudson River, and New-York Central Roads will carry stock and articles free, with the usual condition of payment when shipped, to be repaid if stock and articles are returned, ownership unchanged, with certificate of Exhibition.

The arrangements at Watertown will be of the most satisfactory character, and provisions for stock upon the ground, such as to enable the owners to have them upon the ground the week previous, and during the Fair, in comfortable quarters, with plenty of food.

The stock and articles passing over the Rome and Watertown Railroad must be sent the week previous to the Fair, as the road will, the week of the Fair, be exclusively devoted to passengers, and trains will be run as often as may be necessary from Rome and Cane Vincent to Watertown, to transport passengers intending to attend the Exhibition without delay.

A very choice herd of Devon Cattle, and a superior Short Horns and Herefords, are already entered for public sale, affording an opportunity never before given at our Fairs of purchasing the very best stock at public sale.

Entries may be made at the office on the show grounds the week previous to the Fair, or with the Secretary at Albany, at any time previous.

B. P. JOHNSON, Secretary.
AGRICULTURAL ROOMS, ALBANY, Aug. 23, 1856. 116-117n99

EVERGREEN TREES AT LOW PRICES.

MESSES. ELLWANGER & BARRY solicit the attention of Nurserymen, Planters and Dealers in Trees, to their immense stock of Evergreens, by far the largest ever offered in the United States. They are prepared to furnish the following at the extremely low prices annexed.

All frequently transplanted, and, therefore, finely formed and well rooted.

Norway Spruce 5 feet.....	per 100	\$60 00	\$400 00
" 3 ".....	40 00	350 00	
" 2 ".....	25 00	225 00	
" 1 1/2 ".....	18 00	150 00	
" 1 ".....	15 00	120 00	
" 1 1/2 ".....	10 00	70 00	

Norway 4 years Seedlings, 2 years transplanted.....	10 00	80 00
Scotch Pine 12 inches.....	8 00	60 00
" 9 ".....	12 00	90 00
Austrian Pine 10 to 12 inches.....	10 00	80 00
" 6 to 9 ".....	40 00	
Arbor Vite Siberian 3 feet, beautiful plants.....	30 00	
" 1 ".....	5 00	
" Am., bushy, for hedges 2 to 2 1/2 ft.....	60 00	
" 1 to 1 1/2 ft.....	5 00	
Arbor Golden, a beautiful tree, 1 1/2 to 2 ft., \$9 per dozen.....	per doz.	\$10 00

Himalaya Spruce (Abies Morinda) 2 to 3 feet.....	9 00	
Pinsapo Spruce (A. Pinsapo) fine broad plants, 10 in. high.....	9 00	
Chili Pine (Araucaria imbricata) in pots, 12 to 18 in.....	9 00	
Deodar Cedar, 2 to 3 feet, beautiful plants.....	9 00	
African or Silver Cedar (C. Africana, or Argentea) beautiful, 1 1/2 to 2 feet, (more hardy than Deodar).....	9 00	
Japan Cedar (Cryptomeria) beautiful Seedlings in pots 3 ft.....	10 00	
Funeral Cypress (Cupressus Funeraria) in pots, 1 foot.....	5 00	
Twisted or Rhotan Cypress (C. Torulosa) in pots, 1 foot.....	4 00	
Yew, English 1 1/2 to 2 feet.....	3 00	
" 6 inches.....	2 00	
" Golden (Elegantissima) 9 to 12 inches.....	5 00	
" Irish or upright, 1 1/2 to 2 feet.....	5 00	
" 6 inches, \$2 per doz., \$12 per 100.....		

For further details, we refer to our wholesale Catalogue, sent gratis to all who apply and inclose a stamp. Address

ELLWANGER & BARRY,
Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y. 116n91

WM. R. PRINCE & CO., FLUSHING,

offer for present planting:—

STRAWBERRIES—An unrivalled Collection, of which new Descriptive Catalogue is now ready.

Bulbous Roots and Chinese Peonies, of the most splendid varieties, finest Rhubarb, Large German Asparagus, Madder, Licorice, &c.

In October—CHINESE POTATO, snow white, the most estimable of all sculents.

Also, Trees, and Plants, and Seeds of all kinds. 116-n85

THE "CALIFORNIA FARMER," devoted to Agriculture, Stock Breeding, and the useful sciences

Subscriptions received at the Resident Editor's Office, No. 119 Washington-st., Boston. Sample copies sent when ordered

TO NURSERYMEN.

STOCKS AND SEEDLING TREES.

We solicit the attention of the Trade to the following articles, which we are prepared to furnish this fall at the annexed low rates—all are exceedingly vigorous and well grown.

Magnolia Acuminata, 3 year Seedlings, 2 feet.....	per 1,000	\$30 00
Elm, American, 2 year Seedlings.....	40 00	
Horse Chestnut, 3 ".....	15 00	
Oak, White American, 3 years.....	60 00	
" Red ".....	40 00	
Butternut, 3 year Seedlings, 2 to 3 feet.....	20 00	
Black Walnut, 3 year Seedlings, 2 to 3 feet.....	40 00	
Maple, Silver, 2 ".....	40 00	
" Scarlet, 2 ".....	12 00	
" Sugar, 1 ".....	20 00	
" 1 to 2 feet.....	6 00	
Larch, European, 2 feet.....	30 00	
Catalpa, 1 foot.....	50 00	
Mahonia, or Ashberry, one of the finest Evergreen Shrubs, 2 year Seedlings.....	40 00	
Do. 1 year Seedlings.....	20 00	
Plum Seedlings, 1 year, native.....	10 00	
Pear ".....	10 00	
Cherry, Mazzard, 1 ".....	4 00	
" Mahaleb, Strong.....	15 00	
Manetti Rose, Stocks, Strong.....	40 00	

For further particulars, we beg to refer to our wholesale Catalogue, sent gratis to all who apply and inclose a stamp.
ELLWANGER & BARRY,
116n92 Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y.
September, 1856.

FRESH IMPORTED HYACINTHS, TULIPS, &C.

THE SUBSCRIBERS HAVE JUST RECEIVED

an unusually fine and extensive assortment of Double and Single Hyacinths, Tulips, Polyanthus Narcissus, Double Narcissus, Jonquilles, Crocus, Crown Imperials, Fritillarias, Gladiolus, Irises, Lilies, Arums, Anemones, Ranunculus, Colchicum, Snowdrops, Aconites, Crocus, Lachenalia, Amaryllis, Early Roman Narcissus, to which they invite the attention of amateurs.

Retail Descriptive Catalogues, with directions for culture, furnished applicants enclosing a stamp for return postage.

Dealers and Nurserymen supplied in quantities at as low rates as usually paid for the refuse bulbs from auction.

A good assortment of Hyacinth Glasses, Fancy Crocus Pots, &c., &c.

JAMES M. THORBURN & CO.,
No. 15 John-street, New-York
116-116n89

BULBOUS FLOWER ROOTS.

We have now on hand a large stock of choice Bulbs, and are receiving a new invoice from Holland, consisting of the finest

Hyacinths, Double and Single, Tulips of all the Classes, Crown Imperials,

Crocus, Jonquilles, Narcissus, Japan and other Lilies, Gladiolus, a superb collection of new, and all the older

sorts, &c., &c., &c.

We are prepared to furnish all, at low rates, in large or small quantities, and solicit orders during the month of September, before the busy season opens.

Price Catalogues forwarded gratis.

ELLWANGER & BARRY,
116n94 Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y.
September, 1856.

FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES.

ELLWANGER & BARRY have the pleasure of announcing to their customers and the public in general, that they have now on their grounds for the ensuing fall trade, a very large and complete stock of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, embracing

Standard and Dwarf Apple Trees; Standard and Dwarf Pear Trees;

Standard and Dwarf Cherry and Plum, Peaches, Apricots, Nectarines, &c.

Quinces, large Orange, fine grafted plants;

Gooseberries, of the best sorts, a large stock;

Currents, including the newest and finest sorts, upwards of three hundred thousand plants;

Raspberries, including Brinkley's Orange and several new and fine overbearing sorts;

Blackberries, High Bush, and New-Rochelle or Lawton, a large stock.

Besides Walnuts, Chestnuts, Filberts, and all other fruits usually cultivated.

Grapes, Native and Foreign, in large quantities;

Strawberries, all the best, new and old sorts;

Rhubarb, Asparagus, &c.

ORNAMENTAL TREES, SHRUBBERY, &c.

Deciduous Ornamental Trees, for streets, parks, lawns, cemeteries, &c.

Flowering Shrubs;

Roses, an immense collection, old and new, covering upwards of five acres of land.

Evergreen Trees, including half a million Norway Spruce, of all sizes;

Weeping Trees, everything desirable;

Double Dahlias and Bulbous Roots;

Hedge Plants of all sorts;

Stocks and Seedling Plants for nurserymen;

Green-House and Bedding out Plants, a full assortment.

Nurserymen and dealers dealt with on the most liberal terms, and amateurs' orders attended to with the greatest care.

Packing done in the most thorough and skillful manner, and with the best material.

For full particulars, we refer to special advertisements, and to the following Catalogues, sent gratis to all who apply and enclose a stamp for each.

No. 1. Descriptive Catalogue of Fruits.

No. 2. Descriptive Catalogue of Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Roses, &c.

No. 3. Catalogue of Dahlias, Green-house and Bedding Plants.

No. 4. Wholesale or Trade List.

No. 5. Supplemental Catalogue of Fruits.

ELLWANGER & BARRY,
116n95 Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y.
September, 1856.

RASPBERRY PLANTS.

PURE RED ANTWERP OR NORTH RIVER VARIETY.

The Subscriber has a few thousand

SUPERIOR PLANTS, of the above variety, which he will dispose of at the rate of \$4 per hundred or \$30 per thousand for the large size. Small plants at half the above prices.

SAMUEL SEYMOUR,
115-117n81 South Norwalk, Conn.

116 118m102 Pelham, Westchester Co., N. Y.

INGERSOLL'S IMPROVED, PORTABLE, HAY AND COTTON PRESSES,

A Silver Medal for which was awarded at the late Fair of the American Institute; also, at the Fairfield County Fair, in Conn.

This Press combines greater power and durability, requires less labor, occupies less space, and costs less money than any other Machine for baling Hay or Cotton, ever offered to the public.

And on account of its CHEAPNESS, COMPACTNESS, PORTABILITY and GREAT POWER, it is exactly adapted to the wants and means of every farmer, and it is believed to be far superior, in every respect, to any other machine of the kind now manufactured.

The *Scientific American* of April 5, 1856, says of it:

"It will be observed that this press is extremely simple and cheap in its construction, while at the same time it is strong and powerful; it is also very compact and convenient, readily moved from place to place, &c. It may be employed for pressing cotton and other substances, with the same facility as hay. We regard it as a very excellent improvement."

The great inconvenience and annual expense of wear and breakage in the use of the *Roller, Ratchet, Rope and Chain*, is entirely obviated in this invention.

We have numerous letters from those who have seen and used these presses during the past season, similar to the following from Wm. Thompson, Esq., South Londonderry, Vt., who writes Feb. 2, 1856, as follows:

"Gentlemen:—I think your Press, with the improvement you have made recently, will exceed anything of the kind yet got up, for it will press more in a day, with only two hands to work it, and do it easier, than any other press in New-England."

By the use of this Press, the farmer who resides far inland, and who has been prevented from transporting his hay to market on account of its great bulk, may so far reduce the cost of transportation, by compressing the hay into solid and compact bales, as to make this valuable product one of the most profitable articles of farm culture.

The smallest size will give a pressure of eight to ten tons, and a bale of hay can be pressed in about one minute. The Presses can readily be made of ANY SIZE or SHAPE desired. The regular sizes now made at the factory are:

Size No. 1, designed to make a bale of Hay, weighing from 175 to 200 lbs. Price \$50.

Size No. 2, designed to make a bale of Hay, weighing from 300 to 350 lbs. Price \$75.

Size No. 3 is of immense power and strength, and is designed more especially for HEMP, FLAX or HAY for shipping to distant ports, or where great compactness is required. Weight of bale 350 lbs. Price \$125.

COTTON PRESS. PRICE \$150.

This economical, portable and highly approved Press, has been thoroughly tested, and we would especially call the attention of planters and others to this improvement before purchasing elsewhere. The pressing room is 58 1-2 cubic feet. It will hold of Cotton, if properly trod down, 500 pounds. The bale will be 5 feet long, 2 feet wide, and 2 1-2 thick, containing 25 cubic feet, or 20 pounds to the foot. Outside measure 7 1-4 feet high, 7 feet long, 3 feet wide; weight about 1,400 pounds.

TOBACCO PRESS. PRICE \$125.

This press is also very strong and heavily ironed, possessing great power, occupying but little room, and adapted to pressing tobacco into the hoghead without the loss of time and labor common to the *Screw Press*. The cask sets on the pressing platform and is pressed up against a suitable head piece; then lowered, filled and pressed again, and so on until the cask is full. This is accomplished with great facility and convenience, and may be done with two hands. The portability, the small space occupied, and the low price of this Press, are advantages which cannot fail to meet with the approval of planters, and a large sale throughout the tobacco-growing States.

These Presses are so compact, that they are sent by ship, canal or railroad, most conveniently and in the best order without being taken to pieces; thus saving expense to the purchaser.

This improvement, combining the principle of a *continuous lifting power*, is at once very great, very compact and very cheap; being much quicker, and in many applications more convenient than the screw, and we are prepared to furnish it on short notice, combining more or less power, for Cider Mill Presses, Cheese Presses, Oil Cakes, Cloth or Paper and also for raising vessels, moving buildings, pulling stumps, &c.

The expense of Machines, of course, will be in proportion to the amount of power required for use. The license for any of the States will be sold separately if desired, for the purposes herein specified. Persons wishing to engage in making and selling these various indispensable Machines, will find, on application to this Company, a rare chance for an investment.

Presses on hand and orders filled for any size, without delay. Address

FARMERS' & MECHANICS' MANUFACTURING CO.,
Green Point, Kings Co., L. I.
(H. F. DOUGHERTY, President.)

P. C. INGERSOLL, Secretary.

N. B.—The same company are manufacturing INGERSOLL'S IMPROVED, PORTABLE HAND-POWER MACHINES, for Sowing down Trees, Sowing off Logs, &c., &c., to which the particular attention of the Public is called. 116N98.

BURR STONE and Iron Grain Mills.

Plows of all kinds. Wrought Iron Plows, and Plows with wrought iron Points.

HARROWS; Hay and Stalk Cutters.

SEED SOWERS, &c., in great variety.

FIELD and Garden Seeds.

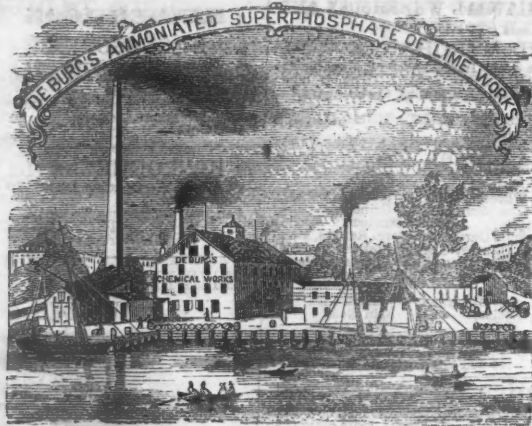
ALLEN'S IMPROVED MOWER, AND MOWER AND REAPER—the best in America.

A large assortment of the most approved Agricultural and Horticultural implements, of good quality and at low prices.

For sale by

102—

R. L. ALLEN,
189 and 191 Water-st., New-York.



DEBURG'S AMMONIATED SUPERPHOSPHATE OF LIME.

THE attention of Farmers and Planters is respectfully called to the above invaluable compound, for their approaching spring planting.

The Manufacturer begs to assure his friends and patrons, that they may always depend upon being supplied with a Genuine and UNIFORM article, for he constantly superintends, in person, the entire process of manufacture and putting up for sale.

This article has now been before the community for a period of five years, during which time it has been analyzed by a large number of Chemists in different places; has been TRIED by farmers upon every kind of soil, in nearly every State in the Union, with almost unvarying success.

In response to my proposition, two years since, to allow any responsible farmers or Agricultural Societies to take, free of cost, a quantity of it wherever they might find it on sale, and give it the most searching practical trials, I am happy to be able to state that many of the most influential Agricultural Societies have made such trials, and have pronounced their unqualified approbation of it as a valuable and paying measure.

Please refer, for proof of this, among others, to the Reports of the "Massachusetts State Farm" for 1853, and for the present year.

Perhaps one of the best proofs of its value is the greatly increased demand, unprecedented in the history of artificial fertilizers, and not equaled by guano itself. I have now (Feb. 1st)

orders for more than \$100,000 worth, received since the commencement of the present year, but having greatly enlarged my works, adding the new factories of which a water-side view is given above, I hope to be able to supply orders to any extent that may be required.

As there are a large number of Superphosphates in market for the value of which I would not like to be responsible, I earnestly request all purchasing to be careful to get the GENUINE article, either from myself or my accredited agents, who are always of acknowledged respectability. For the Superphosphate purchased from such houses, I hold myself responsible for its good character.

The Superphosphate is packed in bags holding 150 lbs. each, and in barrels containing about 300 lbs. each. No charge is made for bags or barrels. In small quantities I will deliver it—cartage free—on board any vessel or railroad leaving New-York City.

CASH PRICE, \$50 per ton of 2,000 lbs.

Orders (stating whether in bags or barrels) to be addressed to

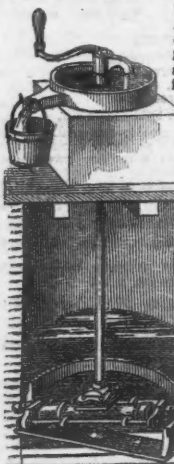
C. B. DEBURG, (Sole Proprietor and Manufacturer.)

Williamsburg, L. I.

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113—118N69

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PANY are preparing, and have now for sale, to use upon Winter Grain and Grass, a large quantity of TAFEU every 100 pounds of which they will warrant to be composed of 70 pounds of Dried Night Soil, and screened through a 1-4 inch screen;

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This article we desire to have tested alongside of any other fertilizer in market at the same cost, believing it is fully equal, if not superior to any other. Price \$35 per ton, delivered on board of vessel or railroad in the city of New-York.

Also POUDETTE in large or small quantities constantly on hand, and ready for delivery at the usual price, \$1 50 per barrel for any quantity over seven barrels.

The Lodi Manufacturing Company have been engaged over seventeen years in the manufacture of Poudrette; have one hundred thousand dollars permanently invested in the business, and have purchased for five years to come, the entire monopoly of all the Night Soil from the city of New-York, and are therefore deeply interested in the reputation of their manufactures.

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The subscriber now offers for sale a few superior Devon Heifers, bred by himself entirely from recently imported stock, and in calf by his last imported bull, "OMER PASHA," winner of the FIRST PRIZE, as yearling, at the Royal Show of England in 1855; as also a number of young Buns and heifers, the get of his three imported Bulls "MEGUNTICOOK," "MAX-BOY," and "OMER PASHA," and out of imported Cows, or their progeny.

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Rhinebeck, Dutchess Co., N. Y.

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FARMING LANDS,
IN TRACTS OF FORTY ACRES AND UPWARD,
ON LONG CREDIT AND AT LOW RATES OF INTEREST.

These lands were granted by the Government, to aid in the construction of this Railroad, and include some of the richest and most fertile prairies in the State, interspersed here and there with magnificent groves of oak and other timber. The road extends from Chicago, on the northeast, to Cairo at the south, and from thence to Galena and Dunleith, in the northwest extreme of the State, and as all the lands lie within fifteen miles on each side of this road, ready and cheap means are afforded by it for transporting the products of the lands to any of those points, and from thence to Eastern and Southern markets. Moreover, the rapid growth of flourishing towns and villages, along the line, and the great increase in population by immigration, etc., afford a substantial and growing home demand for farm produce.

The soil is a dark, rich mould, from one to five feet in depth, is gently rolling, and peculiarly fitted for grazing cattle and sheep or the cultivation of wheat, Indian corn, etc.

Economy in cultivating, and great productiveness, are the well-known characteristics of Illinois lands. Trees are not required to be cut down, stumps grubbed, or stone picked off, as is generally the case in cultivating new land in the older States. The first crop of Indian corn, planted on the newly broken sod, usually repays the cost of plowing and fencing.

Wheat sown on the newly-turned sod is sure to yield very large profits. A man with a plow and two yoke of oxen will break one and a half to two acres per day. Contracts can be made for breaking, ready for corn or wheat, at from \$2 to \$2 50 per acre. By judicious management, the land may be plowed and fenced the first, and under a high state of cultivation the second year.

Corn, grain, cattle, etc., will be forwarded at reasonable rates to Chicago, for the Eastern market, and to Cairo for the Southern. The largest yield on the cheap lands of Illinois over the high-priced lands in the Eastern and Middle States, is known to be much more than sufficient to pay the difference of transportation to the Eastern market.

Bituminous coal is mined at several points along the road, and is a cheap and desirable fuel. It can be delivered at several points along the road at \$1 50 to \$4 per ton. Wood can be had at the same rates per cord.

Those who think of settling in Iowa or Minnesota, should bear in mind, that lands there of any value, along the water courses, and for many miles inland, have been disposed of—that for those located in the interior, there are no conveniences for transporting the produce to market, and no means have been introduced there. That to send the produce of these lands one or two hundred miles by wagon to market, would cost much more than the expense of cultivating them; and hence, Government lands thus situated, at \$1 25 per acre, are not so good investments as the land of this Company at the prices fixed.

The same remarks hold good in relation to the lands in Kansas and Nebraska, for although vacant lands may be found nearer the water courses, the distance to market is far greater, and every hundred miles the produce of those lands are carried either in wagons or interrupted water communications, increases the expenses of transportation, which must be borne by the settlers, in the reduced price of their products; and to that extent precisely are the incomes from their farms, and of course, on their investments, annually and every year reduced.

The great fertility of the lands now offered for sale by this Company, and their consequent yield over those of the Eastern and Middle States, is much more than sufficient to pay the difference in the cost of transportation, especially in view of the facilities furnished by this road; and others with which it connects, the operation, of which are not interrupted by the low water of Summer, or the frost of Winter.

PRICE AND TERMS OF PAYMENT.

The price will vary from \$5 to \$25, according to location, quality, etc. Contracts for deeds may be made during the year 1856, stipulating the purchase money to be paid in five annual installments. The first to become due in two years from the date of contract, and the others annually thereafter. The last payment will become due at the end of the sixth year from the date of the contract.

Interest will be charged at only three per cent. per annum.

As a security to the performance of the contract, the first two years' interest must be paid in advance, and it must be understood that at least one-tenth of the land purchased shall yearly be brought under cultivation. Twenty per cent. from the credit price will be deducted for cash. The Company's construction bonds will be received as cash.

Ready Framed Farm Buildings, which can be set up in a few days, can be obtained from responsible persons.

They will be twelve feet by twenty feet, divided into one living and three bedrooms, and will cost, complete, set up on ground chosen anywhere along the road, \$150 in cash, exclusive of transportation. Larger buildings may be contracted for at proportionate rates. The Company will forward all the materials for such buildings over their road promptly.

Special arrangements with dealers can be made to supply those purchasing the Company's lands with fencing materials, agricultural tools, and an outfit of provisions in any quantity, at the lowest wholesale prices.

It is believed that the price, long credit, and low rate of interest charged for these lands, will enable a man with a few hundred dollars in cash, and ordinary industry, to make himself independent before all the purchase money becomes due. In the mean time, the rapid settlement of the country will probably have increased the value of the five lots. When required, an experienced person will accompany applicants, to give information and aid in selecting lands.

Circulars, containing numerous instances of successful farming, signed by respectable and well-known farmers living in the neighborhood of the Railroad lands throughout the State—also, the cost of fencing, price of cattle, expense of harvesting, threshing, etc., by contract—or any other information—will be cheerfully given, on application, either personally or by letter, in English, French, or German, addressed to
JOHN WILSON,
Land Commissioner of the Illinois Central Railroad Co.
Office, up to the 1st of May, No. 32 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. After that date, in the new stone Passenger Depot, foot South Water-street. 113-117a51

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A

WEEKLY RELIGIOUS AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Circulation over 25,600!!!

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And numerous others.

CORRESPONDENTS

from all sections of the Union; from England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and the Holy Land, contribute to enrich the columns of THIS JOURNAL.

That no other weekly religious newspaper ever met with the success of *The Independent* must now be universally admitted. It has been the aim of the proprietors, without regard to expense, to make it rank in point of talent as high as the best journal of a similar character in the world; and to make it popular only so far as this could be done by treading boldly and firmly in the path of Christian duty—not as pleasing men, but God."

A crisis has arrived when every Christian is called upon to ask, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do" in a conflict for principle and human rights as great as the world has ever seen. No voice can now be silent with impunity. If the religious press or Christian men now refuse either to speak or to act, the very stones will cry out for Heaven's sorest judgments, and we shall be left as a nation to fill up the measure of our iniquity.

Now is the time to prove who are the true lovers of liberty, and to demonstrate who are the worthy descendants of the fathers of the Revolution, who were willing to lay down their lives to secure for this fair country an inheritance of freedom.

The Independent will enter the field side by side with all who desire to do battle for truth, justice, and humanity. With all the power God may give it, it will urge the Christian public to do with their might what their hands find to do to save our beloved country from the death-grasp of Slavery. It will advocate freedom of speech, freedom of the press, free soil, free men, and—Fremont for the next President. Those who think a religious paper should not thus freely join with the secular press in doing this extraordinary work, are informed that the matter has been calmly considered, the cost counted, and the conclusion deliberately and conscientiously arrived at, that duty to God and man precludes a moment's hesitation as to the course which ought to be taken by this paper. Those who sympathize with it, of every name and party, and they are thousands, will aid the cause by doing all they can to extend its circulation.

Those unacquainted with *The Independent* are informed that the paper will furnish articles weekly as follows:

- 1st. Religious Editorials. Selections, and current Religious News.
- 2d. Editorials discussing the great Moral and Political Questions of the Day.
- 3d. Communications from regular weekly contributors, embracing every variety of topic suited to a Christian family—to the living, not to the dead.
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- 6th. An Article on Agriculture, embracing information from all parts of the country in relation to the condition of the crops.
- 7th. A Review of the New-York Cattle and Produce Market.
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- 10th. Poetry, Religious Items, Reports of Public Meetings, Book Notices and Reviews, and other matters interesting to the reading public.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.—Fifteen cents per line each insertion.

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Office, No. 22 Beekman-street, New York.

JOSEPH H. LADD,

Publisher.

116-116a96

August, 1856.

THE TEETH vs. THE HEALTH.

EVERYBODY KNOWS the pleasures of an aching tooth, and nothing need be said upon that head. But

EVERYBODY does not fully appreciate how much good health depends upon having food well masticated, for which, of course, GOOD TEETH are necessary. Said the Editor of the *Agriculturist* recently:

"I have kept myself and my Children in perfect health during the present year, by simply taking especial care to have every particle of food thoroughly mashed or pulverized before going into the stomach. In this way nothing of a hard nature, like a piece of potato, fruit, meat or other food goes into the intestines to produce irritation, and the consequent diarrhoea, dysentery and other bowel complaints."

Every consideration speaks strongly in favor of preserving the teeth we have, and of supplying those already gone.

Those who wish any operations upon their teeth performed honestly, carefully, civilly, in short, in the best possible manner, and upon reasonable terms, will do well to call upon DR. BENJAMIN F. ADAMS, at No. 122 Chambers-street, New-York, (a little west of the City Hall.)

Dr. ADAMS has given exclusive attention to operations upon the teeth for over fourteen years, and confidently refers to the thousands of persons who have been under his care.

Dr. ADAMS may always be found at his office, so that persons coming in from the country may depend upon having any desired operation performed immediately on their arrival.

Whole or Part Sets of Incurable Teeth inserted without pain, on Gold Plate or Gutta Percha, excelling nature in beauty and durability, by aid of the various modern inventions and the subscriber's recent improvements. Spongy, bleeding, or ulcerated gums speedily cured. Partly decayed teeth saved with gold, tin, or patent fillings, and their preservation warranted. No impure gold or dangerous amalgams used.

Irregularities in children's teeth prevented, or of adults removed. Cleansing, extracting, &c., &c., all at low prices.

Satisfaction in regard to color, form, and translucency of all teeth inserted, in block or single, is in all cases warranted.

The great delicacy and caution observed in all operations, with the aid of recently improved and superior instruments, dispense with all necessity of chloroform or other narcotics in the most irritable nervous system.

Teeth examined, and advice given free of charge.

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116a101

YOUATT'S CONDITION POWDERS,
For HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP and SWINE—cures Heaves, Cough, Glanders, and all diseases resulting from Colds, and which affect the mucous membrane of the lungs, throat and head of the Horse. Also expels Bots and Worms, loosens the hide, improves the appetite, and keeps the animal in good condition. Youatt's Condition Powders are recommended to all who take a pride in preserving the good health and fine appearance of their Stock. Price 50 cents a package. Sold at wholesale by Haviland, Harrel & Risley, Wholesale Druggists, No. 39 Warren-st., and by dealers generally. 114-119a70

GRENOBLE HOSE.—A superior Hose, manufactured of the finest Hemp—a cheap and excellent substitute for Leather and Gutta Percha. It is especially recommended to Planters, Nurserymen, Fire Companies, Steamboats, Manufacturers, Dwellings, &c. It costs less than half the price of leather, is lighter, stands as much pressure, is as durable, and is not subjected for its preservation to the expense of oiling or greasing, neither is it injured by frost.

For sale, and orders for importation received in sizes from 1 07 inches in diameter, by CHARLES LENZMANN, 34 Cedar-st., New-York, where certificates of its superior qualities can be examined, from Alfred Carson, Esq., Chief Engineer of the New-York Fire Department; from James McFarlan, Esq., Chief Engineer of the Union Ferry Co., and also from official authorities of some of the large cities of Europe. 114-116a73

PORTABLE FORGES AND BELLows, (QUEEN'S PATENT.)

The best Forge in market for Blacksmiths' work, Boiler makers, Mining, Quarrying, Shipping, plantations, Contractors on Railroads and Public Works, Coppermiths, Gas Fitters, &c., &c. Also, an improved PORTABLE MELTING FURNACE for Jewellers, Dentists, Chemists, &c. Both of these are constructed with sliding doors to protect the fire from wind and rain when used out doors, and for perfect safety and free escape of smoke when used indoors. They are compact for Shipping.

Circulars with particulars and prices will be forwarded upon application.

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85-116a1190N8

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having an agent in each county and town of the Union. A capital of from \$5 to \$10 only will be required, and anything like an efficient, energetic man, can make from \$3 to \$5 per day; some of the Agents are realizing twice that sum. Every information will be given by addressing, with a stamp to pay return letter, to
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WILLARD FELT, No. 14 Maiden-lane
Manufacturer of Blank Books, and Importer and Dealer in PAPER and STATIONERY of every description. Particular attention paid to orders. 8-30

REVIEW OF PRICES, WEATHER, &c.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST OFFICE,
New-York, August 28, 1886.

The Breadstuffs market still continues unsettled. The actual results of the past harvest in Europe are not yet fully known, and it is unknown how great a demand may be made upon us. In our own country the yield of wheat has undoubtedly been a good one, though not an over crop. What is more important, the harvest occurred during fine weather, and this crop was gathered in excellent order. Everything considered, we do not see how the present prices can be sustained, though it is quite doubtful whether a very low rate will be attained for wheat. The corn crop, put back and in some places severely injured by drouth, defect of seed, &c., is now coming forward finely.

The following table shows the total receipts of flour and grain in this city by Railroad, River, Canal and Coastwise, for 27 business days ending to-day:

Flour.. 297,000 bbls.	Rye.. 50,000 bush.
Wheat.. 1,298,000 bush.	Oats.. 247,000 bush.
Corn.. 1,561,500 bush.	

We find upon our note-book records of the following sales in this city for 27 business days ending to-day:

Flour.. 356,600 bbls.	Corn.. 1,662,000 bush.
Wheat.. 1,436,300 bush.	Rye.. 100,650 bush.

The following figures show the present prices of some of the principal agricultural products, and also the variations since our last report.

	July 29.	August 29.
Flour—Ordinary State.....	\$5 90@ 6 00	\$6 00@ 6 10
Mixed Western.....	5 25@ 7 00	5 70@ 7 50
Favorite and Ex. State.....	6 10@ 6 40	6 25@ 6 60
Extra Genesee.....	6 75@ 7 75	7 00@ 9 50
Wheat—Canada White.....	1 70@ 1 81	1 50@ 1 60
Southern White.....	1 60@ 1 80	1 58@ 1 65
Southern Red.....	1 50@ 1 68	1 45@ 1 53
Western Red and White.....	1 30@ 1 55	1 25@ 1 65
Corn—Western Mixed.....	55@ 62	55@ 62
Yellow and White.....	63@ 65	60@ 68
Rye.....	70@ 85	87@ 88
Barley.....	40	40
Oats—Western, &c.....	34@ 45	41@ 50
Cotton—Middling and Fair.....	11@ 11	11@ 12
Rice.....	3 75@ 4 50	3 65@ 4 21
Pork—Mess.....	20 25@ 20 37	19 25@ 19 35
Dressed Hogs.....	71@ 84	71@ 87
Lard, in bbls.....	121@ 13	13@ 134
Butter—Western.....	12@ 16	14@ 191
State.....	14@ 22	18@ 24
Orange Co.....	14@ 22	24@ 28
Cheese.....	64@ 84	64@ 9
Potatoes—Carters.....	11@ 11	11@ 12
Mercers.....	2 50@ 2 75	2 00@ 2 25
Onions—Reds.....	2 50@ 2 75	2 50@ 2 75
White.....	75@ 3 50	
Apples.....		

Beef Cattle have arrived pretty freely, except during the week ending Aug. 20. The receipts for five weeks, ending Aug. 27, compare as follows:

	1855.	1856.
Total of Beeves for 5 weeks.	18,349	18,601
Weekly average.....	3,670	3,720

Low prices prevailed on the first three market days, with an advance on the last two. A combination among sellers kept the price up yesterday, notwithstanding the large receipts for the week, amounting to 4,402. A decline may be looked for. The prices yesterday at Forty-fourth street ranged: Premium cattle 10c. a lb. net or dressed weight; First quality 10c. a lb.; Medium quality, 9c. a lb.; Poor quality, 8c. a lb.; Poorest quality, 8c. a lb.; General selling prices, 9c. a lb. Average of all sales about 10c.

Sheep have been in fair supply, though less than for the same time last year, and prices

are higher. Receipts for five weeks ending Aug. 27:

	1855.	1856.
Total of sheep and lambs.....	73,942	61,841
Weekly average.....	14,788	12,370

Prices of Sheep and Lambs the past week have ranged from \$1 62 to \$5 per head, the majority of good animals bringing \$2 50 a \$4 per head.

THE WEATHER.—As we closed our last report (July 29) a rain commenced falling, after a long drouth. During this month (August) we have had frequent rains and generally very cool weather. On the whole this has been the coldest August in 68 years we believe. A great amount of rain fell in different parts of the country during the third and first part of the fourth week of the month, producing heavy freshets which did much damage.

Our weather notes, condensed, read: July 29, warm and showery; 30, clear, hot (96°); 31, heavy rain and lightning, struck in many places; August 1, 2, 3, clear, warm; 4, cooler; 5, heavy rain all day; 6, 7, clear, cool; 8, cloudy; 9, 10, 11, clear, fine; 12, cloudy; 13, clear; 14, showers; 15, 16, 17, 18, clear, moderately cool; 19, heavy storm, rain and wind; 20, clear; 21, cool, cloudy; 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, clear, cool and pleasant; 27, clear, cool nights and mornings, flannel quite comfortable; to-day (28), slight showers.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

When the Volume will close—Back Numbers—Extra Copies for Friends—Back Volumes, &c.

We have hitherto preferred to have our Volume commence in Autumn, at the season of the Agricultural Exhibitions, but we find a general desire to have this period correspond with the year. In accordance therewith, we shall continue this Volume until December, making 15 monthly numbers in Volume XV, instead of 12. A full index will be given with the December Issue.

By this arrangement Volume XVI, will commence on January 1st, 1857, and close with that year.

An unexpected large increase of new Subscribers exhausted all of the Extra copies printed for January, February, March and April, and many hundreds more than we could furnish were called for.

Very large extra editions of the May, and June issues were printed, so that we shall be able to supply all who may call for them, either for themselves or friends. We have also on hand a number of copies for October, November and December, 1855—(that is Nos. 1, 2, and 3, of the present Volume.) Those who subscribed in January, can complete the present Volume, that is get the numbers for October, November, and December, by sending 25 cents, or 8 postage stamps.

Any back numbers on hand will be mailed post-paid to any address given, on the reception of 3 postage stamps (nine cents).

Are there not many of our present readers who would esteem it a pleasure to send the American Agriculturist for a year to some neighbor, or to a distant relative or friend? A dollar will often furnish a most acceptable continuous gift, when sent in this way. Scarcely a week or even a day passes in which we do not receive a subscription of this kind. When the paper is so sent we enclose a receipted bill with the first number forwarded, noting upon it the name of the person from whom the money was received.

We sometimes send (post paid) a spare copy of the Agriculturist to persons who are not subscribers. This is occasionally done as a compliment, and at other times to invite the person receiving it to examine its merits and see if it will not be worthy of a year's, or at least six months' subscription, by way of trial. Will those who may receive such copies please look them over, and, if convenient, pass them along to their neighbors? No one need take the trouble to return papers thus received—we never send the Agriculturist when we do not consider it paid for, and no one need fear to subscribe for a short period, lest they "can not get rid of it" if not

wanted. The paper is always stopped when the time expires for which it has been ordered and paid.

Persons forwarding money by mail may consider the arrival of the paper an acknowledgment of the receipt of the money.

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American Agriculturist.

(Established in 1842.)

A THOROUGH-GOING, RELIABLE, and PRACTICAL Journal, devoted to the different departments of SOIL CULTURE—such as growing FIELD CROPS; ORCHARD and GARDEN FRUITS; GARDEN VEGETABLES and FLOWERS; TREES, PLANTS, and FLOWERS for the LAWN or YARD; IN-DOOR and OUT-DOOR work around the DWELLING; care of DOMESTIC ANIMALS, &c. &c.

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Over FIVE HUNDRED PLAIN, PRACTICAL, instructive articles are given every year.

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The paper is considered paid for wherever it is sent, and will be promptly discontinued when the time for which it is ordered expires.

All business and other communications should be addressed to the Editor and Proprietor,

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